



Sky gardening

—Second draft—

a poem by

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Skygardening

Second Public Draft – March of 2024

A poemella by Kespuzzuo

Preface – Still working on it

This is still a work in progress, but it's shaping up to become the work I want it to be. Of course, if you want a more definitive version, make sure to read the final version... in case it's out. But if you want to see how it was made, and see any scrapped ideas, you can read the drafts, but, be warned, they're drafts, they can be rough, and not completely refined.

This poem now features Kirby! Now then, this poem is actually an "Adventures of Lolo" Fanwork that features several Kirby characters, rather than a Kirby Fanwork. You'll notice that the lore of the Lolo games is followed faithfully, while I take some creative liberties with Kirby sometimes, but, not enough to completely change Kirby's character. Kirby still is cute and friendly. He is going to be a major plot point during this draft (and hopefully the final version of the poem)

Previously, on the first draft, the middle of the story consisted almost entirely of the lakesprites playing games with the spiders. However, this part of the plot was a placeholder for the conflict of the story. I'm happy to say that I have actually thought of an interesting plot to write about. The second act of this story takes inspiration from Kirby & The Amazing Mirror. It's sprinkled with original stuff as well, and more layers to the plot too.

Regarding conflict, this story has more than one villain. There's also a successor to King Egger, called King Mayon, who is to be the nephew of Egger.

Almost the entire poem has been rewritten to fit the new plot and to work on the characters. The only part that hasn't been completely rewritten is the third act, which will receive it's own update in a later draft. And yes, there will be more drafts between this release and the eventual final release during May. They will come up faster, since they'll have more minor changes.

As for what's to come in the next drafts, I have yet to write out several of the endnotes in this poem. Endnotes in this poem serve as small bits of story, all of them are told by characters other than Povynn (me, Povynn is literally me), and sometimes are flashbacks. They're a solution to the problem of having a first person present tense story happening in a linear fashion from the perspective of one character. I'm even thinking of adding more, so other characters, like Quentin and Emronia, can be given more characterization.

On the third draft, which is the one that comes after this one, I'm planning to get Hai more involved in the plot. The third draft will also include the remaining endnotes. After that, I'll rewrite the third act and ending of the story to be cooler. There will be a fourth draft after that, then a fifth draft, then a release candidate, and then, finally, the definitive version of this poem.

Book I – Soaring the sky

1 – Welcome to Florialia

Over the skies, I fly along my two friends, over a morning sky filled with stars.

Below us, lies Planet Popstar, a five-pointed astronomical body.

With it's forests, plains. mountains, and seas, you could easily make it your home.

But, one of its most special features is the flying Kingdom of Florialia.

Filled with life and vegetation, it's a miracle of sustainable environments.

After learning about its beauty, I suggested taking a trip there with my friends.

By my side, Emronia was flying along. I'm glad she's joining me in this adventure.

And I'm glad that she brought Quentin with us too. He's a friend of the both of us.

The three of us also happen to be all lakesprits, two-tailed psychic beings.

We're around the size of a cat, but, despite this, we're associated with magic and legends.

As we cross through the clouds, the sky clears to reveal our destination.

Florialia is composed of six islands, each one hovering at a different height.

Each one housing different expanses of land, each one being a different world.

But, the first island we'd like to visit is the highest one, Royal Road.

This is the metropolis of the country. Above it's clouds there's castle walls and towers.

Gears spin between the bridges that connect each section of the city.

Narrow rivers of water flow towards the surroundings of the city.

But, not only towards its edges, but, towards the lower levels, below the bridges.

Blimps float down to the lower islands, with sails that adjust to their winds.

We arrive at the gates, as we land on a platform filled with brick tiles of warm colors.

The clouds at our feet cross through the trees and paths that lead to the city.

Some guards come near us, wearing bug-shaped helmets, and ask for our names.

"My name? I am Povynn Kalisvir, a lakesprit who travels across space" I tell them.

One of them asks "Good to know. By any chance do any of you bring mirrors?"

I shake my head. I don't bring mirrors inside my backpack, since they could break easily.

The guards analyze Quentin, and look below his hat, white hair, and blue cheeks.

He opens the pockets beneath his cloak, only showing a phone, a wallet, keys, and a book.

The, the guards look at Emronia, and search below her long silver hair and pink body.

She opens her purse, showing her possessions, which included a makeup kit.

The guards opened it, and turned their heads away in disgust. The kit had a mirror.

"Unfortunately, this item is not allowed to enter our Kingdom." One guard says.

Another guard points out "Recent events caused us to ban mirrors, temporarily."

"So, if you desire to roam this country, you ought to leave it behind." The first guard adds.

Emronia lowers her head, and hands over the kit. "Okay then... you may take it."

The great gates open up for us, as this beautiful realm weaves in front of us.

2 - A City of Plants

We cross the gates and we are greeted by a city filled with art and green spaces. Our eyes stare at the multiple floors of buildings and gardens stacked on each other. We walk through streets with no cars, but, with trolleys and pedestrians instead.

Then, an elevator lowers us below the bridges to the shops and restaurants.

The doors open as we see multitudes of plant-people, of the same size as us. Their heads are like flowers, with faces on them, and they wear leaf-like cloaks.

"I wonder if Kirby will take a stand." One of them whisper amongst the crowd.

Another one by the side shrugs, "I doubt it, we haven't seen him in months."

"I'm hopeful. He's the hero of the lower world after all, you know?"

The scenery down here is beautiful, the buildings remind me of Art Nouveau. Many of them have flower patterns painted on them, and fabric patterns even.

On top of their tiled roofs, several of them have small farms of potted plants. We walk to a cafe that had some delicious chocolates displayed on the windows. Not only that, but also pancakes, the waffles, and cakes of cream and strawberries.

The owner's a nice plant-lady, wearing a cute white apron over her green dress.

She tells us that her species is commonly referred to as "People of the sky."

The cooks, of the same species, also make some real gourmet dishes.

Quentin's mouth is watering as he stares at the sandwiches he ordered.

He also ordered many brownies with ice cream on it, and two milkshakes.

Guess what... I'm getting a sandwich too, with some fries on the side!

Emronia gets herself a salad with bread sticks and some protein in it, coated in sauce.

She just happens to love that sauce. I do like it too, ever since she told me.

"So, what other kinds of beings live here?" I ask the owner.

She says to us "Well, you might also have heard of the cloud spiders"

"They have white hair, horns, and skin of chestnut" she adds, "our Queen is one of them."

"Oh nice, may I ask, what is her name?" Emronia asks her.

She giggles and then says "The name of our Majesty is Queen Sektionia."

"Oh! She does have a nice name, I think it'd be nice to meet her." Emronia responds.

"I can tell you for sure that she is a beautiful and caring ruler." The owner tells us.

And so, we enjoy the rest of our plates, thinking of how kind Florilians are.

3 - Chased around

After filling ourselves, we thought of getting some souvenirs.
But, as we get some keychains, magnets and stickers...
Rustles of leaves and falling objects make us turn our heads.
A white-haired spider emerges from some bushes and flies away.
He carries a huge bouquet of flowers. So big, that some even fell.
His red scarf waves as he holds it tight with his white and orange gloves.
He looks back to see the one-eyed scarfies that chase him.
As their jaws close and open below their single eyes, which is not their usual form.
Naturally, scarfies are orange orbs with ears, and two axolotl-like eyes.
But, I've been warned that if they were angered, they would turn into this.
Their eyes would turn into a single one, and their skin would turn brown.
Anyways, I extend my hand to summon my weapon, and it flashes before my eyes.
An artifact from atop the mountaintops, reflecting the colors of its temple.
Its segmented pole and point shine in white, golden, and azure.
Creator and shaper of islands, whisk of the seas. A present from the maker.
It fully forms as I lift off and run away, until my tails get pulled by my friends.
"Povynn! No, let's not get in trouble! It's our first day here, you know?" Emronia alerts.
I then swipe and pull away my tails out of their hands and fly towards the scarfies.
"Leave the spider alone!" I scream as I guard the arachnid behind me.
But the scarfies direct their anger at me and launch themselves towards me.
Picked up by my spear, I get one of the scarfies right in front of me, and send it off.
The two make contact and blow up like dynamite in front of all of us.
Then a third one flies away from the explosion right towards my face.
And with a swing of my weapon, I slice it away, making it explode in front of me.
The blast sends me through the air, back to the island, as I lose my senses.
I... I end up... I think I'm on the arms of Quentin and Emronia now.
"Povynn? Are you okay?" she asks me. "Yes, I'm doing fine" I tell her.
I touch my face and realize it got covered with some kind of gunpowder.
As I get more of my conscience back, I notice that the spider I helped looms on the side.
"I want to thank you, Povynn. You didn't have to do that, but, thanks!" He says.
Sometimes I feel guilty when I hear I didn't have to do something.
Yes, I am aware he's thanking me, but, that still touches something in me.
Then I respond, "You're welcome, young spider. By the way, what is your name?".
"My name is Taranza. I am a royal servant of the Queen." He tells me.
"Nice to meet a spider like you, Taranza. My name is Povynn."

4 - Council of the Seven Years

We cross hedge mazes that surround the center of the city, and we sit by a fountain.

On the top of a fountain we see a statue of people of the sky and spiders.

With their faces looking at what seems to be the islands rising off the surface.

"Oh, do you know what this is supposed to be?" Taranza points out.

The three of us shrug off. And so, the spider brings up the history of this Kingdom.

"It is told that hundreds of years ago, the ancestors of Floralia lived on the ground.

They lived on a small town called... Botoria, where both spiders and plants gathered.

But, one day, magically, a group of islands next to Botoria were lifted off the ground.

And so, since they could fly, a new land was settled above the sky, called Floralia."

"I wonder what has been of Botoria. Is it still here?" Quentin asks.

Taranza responds, "Have you ever heard about Dark Mind?"

We shake our heads, as we had never heard that name before.

And so, he tells us some more of the history of this country.

"Hundreds of years ago, when Floralia was finally hovering over the sky...

A masked lord emerged from the sky, and gave himself the name... Dark Mind.

He attacked Botoria, and so, Floraliens had to defend themselves and seal him off.

Hence, Botoria has been converted into a memorial, and a reminder of that time."

Emronia covers her mouth, "Oh no! Then, I hope Floraliens stay safe now."

"We are trying our best, at least I hope so." Taranza says as he looks into the distance.

He then turns and says "You might be aware that he has come back to haunt us."

Emronia gasps, while Quentin calms her down. "I... I was not aware of that." I say.

Taranza then says, "Well, just so you know, his sorcery revolves around mirrors...

They could appear anywhere, and could haunt anyone, hence, we prohibited them.

Floralia, and the nation of Eden Land are working together¹ to fight Dark Mind.

We had even formed a special group to track him down, one which I'm part of.

We call ourselves... the Council of the Seven Years." He bowed in front of us.

I stand up, "Taranza, you might be shocked, but, I'd like to join you.

I'm a lakesprite, and us lakesprites have a lot of vigor within.

I'm someone who aspires to be a legend, someone who wants to be in history books.

As a hero, as someone who saved a world from its most dangerous foes.

Not just because of the honor, but, because I want to be an example for others.

I believe in the potential of others, and I want to awaken their motivations.

So, please, let me join the Council of the Seven Years."

Taranza blushes and adjusts his scarf, "Well, this might be a challenge for you."

"I still want to help you, you already saw me defend you. I believe I can do it." I tell him.

The spider lets out a breath, and turns to me, "I'll tell the rest of the council about it.

Tomorrow you three can visit us at the Royal Palace." He tells me as he hands a card.

"Thank you, Taranza, I promise we'll be of great help!" I tell him and keep the card.

¹ See endnote 1: "Figured it out"

Book II – Your Majesty

1 - Honored to meet them

The next morning, we wake up at some cozy beds, all sharing the same bedroom.

"Quite neat that the hotel let us have a bedroom with three beds" Quentin said.

I respond, "Yeah, despite everything, Floraliens can still give up a good service."

Through the windows we can see a beautiful sky at the beginning of this day.

The horizon looks almost clear with a blue hue, with a few blue clouds.

I can see small airships flying down to the lower islands, and one far beyond this country.

That one, the one that is really far away, appears to be long, and has wings and a mask.

The card that I was given yesterday is Taranza's business card, which has his number.

So, when we got to this hotel, I was able to contact him to ask about the meeting.

We'll meet in front of the palace in a pair of hours, and, there will be breakfast too.

So we put on our clothes. For now, I'm wearing a warm jacket and pants over my scarf.

It feels like we're dressed like mountaineers, we're even stocked with supplies.

I'm thankful for the people serving us at the hotel, who also gave us the directions.

As we leave the hotel, we look the scenery of this precious place once again.

It's so beautiful and full of life here on the lower floors of Royal Road, beneath the bridge.

There's plant shops, restaurants, libraries, and apartments across the road.

On the other side, there's a park with trees and patches, which reaches to their ledges.

Beyond that, there's another floor of buildings beneath us, which we haven't visited.

We walk across the tiled road as younger Floraliens play by the park.

An elevator takes above, as its gears spin and its rope pulls us upwards.

Now, we're finding ourselves at the middle of the main square of this city.

Across us there's more houses, though, some are government buildings.

For example, at one side, there's the post office, and next to it there's a museum.

All these buildings are protected by walls with towers with conical roofs.

One special detail was how each roof is topped with a sphere that feels as if it floats.

And so, we approach the entrance to the palace, which is located at one end of the square.

There we can see the spider we met yesterday, Taranza, who's waving at us.

He has six gloves, I think that's quite neat for a spider like him.

"Good morning, Taranza. I'm ready to meet the Queen." I tell him.

Taranza blushes, "I'm glad you are! She is the Queen of my heart. I love attending her!"

"Then, I bet she must be really charming!" Emronia giggles.

Taranza giggles back, "She is! Come on, follow me." He says as he leads the way.

The castle's walls open, as we enter a wide hall, filled with ornaments and patterns.

Above us there's a clear roof, giving the building some natural light.

"This portion of the Palace is where Her Majesty and her staff work." Taranza says.

On the sides, we can see rooms with libraries inside them, and meeting rooms.

There are also offices, or workspaces, too. There's even a room with a grand piano.

The hall then leads outside, to a big bridge of stone, leading to a small floating island.

This island is shaped like a gem, with a round cut, and has a tower sitting atop.

We walk, or hover, above the bridge, as the wind blows on our faces.

"This is where Her Majesty rests and dines, along with her most important staff."

Taranza presents the island to us, which flies above the rest of Royal Road.

Patches of grass surround the tower, and behind it there's a garden with a roof of trees.

We enter the tower, and ascend to the top, where her throne sits.

2 - A Royal Encounter

Inside the royal tower, it looks even more beautiful, it's filled with details.
We even see banners waving with the wind, showing an emblem of the Queen.
Taranza, then shows us the door to the throne room, which is well-designed.
He looks through his pockets, and pulls a key, which then goes into the door.
Not only he uses a key. His gloves light up, as if he were to use magic.
Gears and cogs turn and rotate as the door opens up. The key is taken off at the end.
With that done, Taranza bows to us as we enter the throne room of the Floralian Queen.
The room is decorated from the floor tiles, the carpet, to the columns and the ceiling.
Big pots having several types of plants of them hang by the walls.
The clouds above Popstar can be seen between the chiseled pillars at the sides.
A long carpet leads towards the monarch, sitting on a big comfy throne.
Pillows and cushions that resemble flowers and spider webs sit there as well.
She has long white hair, yellow horns, and pink eyes with eyelash over her brown face.
She is... just like Taranza, a cloud spider, and she even wears similar clothes.
Her hair is longer than his, and she has some pretty pink gloves.
We stand in front of her and bow, as Taranza presents us.
"Your Majesty! These are travelers that have come across galaxies and planets...
They're the legendary beings known as lakesprits, with their gems and tails,
And they wish to assist the Council of the Seven Years on their quest.
Their names are, Quentin, Emronia, and Povynn!" Taranza says as we bow to the Queen.
The Monarch hops out of her throne, and her cloak waves as she flies towards us.
"It's such a nice opportunity to get to meet you, Queen Sectonia." I bow to her.
She then nods at us "Great to see you as well, travelers. And thanks for your visit."
The spider Queen then walks away as she waves to us with her glove.
She then brings a silver plate, with borders that emulate flowers and leaves.
On top of it, there's cookies with jelly on the middle, resembling flowers.
She says, "Me and Taranza attempted to research about you lakesprits, but...
We didn't get enough time to really know anything. Would you tell us about you?"
The three of us lakesprits blush and giggle a bit, each one of us taking a cookie.
I tell her, "One ancient legendary being, known as Arceus, created the lakesprits.
Far beyond Popstar, far beyond the planets on your sky, there's the world Arceus made.
The first three lakesprits hatched from one egg, and designed the minds of that world.
Uxie, the yellow one, created cognition. Mesprit, the pink one, created emotions.
And Azelf, the blue one, is said to have created willpower, but you can say it's movement.
We ourselves aren't the original ones, therefore we are brand new lakesprits.
Emronia and Quentin are very close friends who come from a place called Rocomenta.
And I am Povynn Kalisvir. I am a lakesprit who specializes in perception.
Which means that I can create images, sounds, and illusions.
I will make sure that my abilities will assist you on your mission.

Would you tell us more about yourself, Your Majesty?"

The Queen feels delighted, "About me? Well, I am Sektionia of the Lunae Filum² house. My family has been taking care of Floralia for a long time, as civilians and as royals. We started out as residents of Botoria, and then contributed to Floralia's history. My ancestors built some of the parks, and developed technology for this country. Eventually, we were chosen to rule³ this country, and it's been good ever since."

I nod, "And we can keep it up. Speaking of that, would you tell us about Dark Mind?"

The Queen says, "Oh, sure. Did Taranza tell you about the Council of the Seven Years? Me and Taranza are part of it, and we're considering recruiting the three of you."

I stand up firm and say, "Yes, Her Majesty, I'm up for this task. You can count on me."

Emronia and Quentin scratch their heads, and whisper to each other.

"Her Majesty..." Emronia says, "We might prefer investigating instead of fighting."

Sektionia says, "Oh, that's completely fine. Our quest involves both of these skills."

"Then, we believe we can do it." Quentin responds, "We'd like to research Dark Mind."

² This surname is original to this work. In HAL's works, Sektionia was never given a last name. Though, I figured out she could have a surname of a Romance style, since the names of the characters in Floralia resemble Romance languages.

³ See endnote 2: "Monarchy"

3 - Fine Fields

The Queen then invites us to fly down to the lowest region of Floralia, Fine Fields. The air is much more pure here. This place is filled with nature, forests, and fields. We walk through gardens that resemble forests, with trees towering over us. And with big circles of neatly placed flowers surrounded by such trees. The Queen then guides us towards the edge of this island, to look at Popstar. A wide panoramic view of the planet, much clearer than the view from above. With her floating glove, the Queen points at what was once a crater on the horizon. Once a crater, now turned into a field of green grass, surrounded by a monument. With a spyglass on our hands, we look at the former town with more detail. The monument has a statue at the center, with bouquets on its surroundings. The Queen says, "Centuries ago, when we moved to the newborn floating islands. Out of the far away sky, out from the galaxy, Dark Mind emerged and caused chaos. It started out as a glimpse up in the sky, blending between the stars. But then it got closer, threatening to affect us. The sky dawned with fiery colors. Clouds spun along with the stars, and the wind blew even the islands out. It opened its eye, and spawned mirrors around it, and blew up our previous home. As each one of us attacked individually, we realized we couldn't do this on our own. So, we figured out a plan, to create something strong and self-sustaining. Something that could take great amounts of energy and direct it at our threat. Engineers from several countries in Popstar came to build the project. It was an automated snake-shaped mechanism, that operated through magic. The name given to it was Coily Rattler, and it became a legend after sealing Dark Mind. Ever since then, we have been living on Floralia, leaving Botoria rest below." As we take another look at the statue, we notice the shape of a snake and smaller beings. We walk more across the island and between the multicolored trees. With their gloves glowing, the spiders spawn water that could grow the crops. And then the spiders spin the falling fruits into baskets for them to carry. Upon us there are even natural bridges of land, grass, and wood. Emronia then asks, "How come Dark Mind emerged once again? What happened?" The Queen explains, "I am glad you asked that question. Here is the rundown. Above the skies of Popstar, there lies a mirror-shaped portal to another land. A completely different realm, which we have called... the Mirror World. It used to be a peaceful region, that is, until some months ago. That was when, mirrors that came from that place started reflecting unpleasant images. Not just that, we also heard that those who looked at the mirrors would harm others. And so, we started to dispose of the mirrors, which unleashed his fury. Dark Mind appeared once again on the skies, and released his army. I can't help but think. If he's letting us choose between this and that... If we're being forced to pick one poison or the other one...

Then, we'd like to carve out our own path instead, our own good, that is."

As we entered deep into a forest, the leaves made a deep green ceiling above us.

Some of those leaves crossed our breeze along with seeds of dandelions.

The patterns on the trunks of the trees feel unique, they look like furniture.

The spiders descend the other bridge we were crossing, and water the grass below it.

Then, one of the sprouts that were just as big as us swells several times bigger.

And from it, a red fruit with a golden peel spinning around it emerges at its tail.

Sparks of light bend are drawn towards it, as the spiders carefully pick it for their basket.

"This is one of Floralia's most magical features, the Miracle Fruit." Sectonia points out.

Taranza adds, "They house a lot of power, enough for a seed to sprout a giant stalk."

"Though, there can be other special uses for them, I may add." The Queen says.

We walk out of the forest as both spiders hold baskets filled with fruits.

Quentin asks, "Her Majesty, do you have a clue regarding... Kirby?"

She then turns to say, "Kirby? Of course I know of him. That's a name you should know!"

"A pink puffball who saved Popstar and other planets several times." Taranza adds.

Sectonia tells us, "He can copy the abilities of others, in such a magical way.

Let it be with electricity, fire, or even with weapons that come from the thin air.

There might be the chance that there's no limit to his potential.

Kirby defeated an enemy similar to Dark Mind... that was called Dark Matter.⁴

Turns out there were multiple of them, coming from a bigger enemy called Zero.

Zero was a giant white ball, with a single eye, and it was the source of those creatures.

After Kirby defeated⁵ it, it returned and invaded multiple worlds, not just Popstar!

And once again, with his friends, he helped defeat the reincarnation of Zero!⁶"

"One might even say he's the Hero of the Lower World!⁷" Taranza adds.

Sectonia giggles, and says, "However, he's been missing for several months now.

We could really use his help, as we believe he could even heal the corrupted."

"He did save King Dedede from Dark Matter⁸, after all." Taranza deduces.

The Queen then says, "Unfortunately, we will have to do this ourselves.

But, don't worry too much, as we have company." She concludes as she extends her hand.

At the distance, two orbs can be seen, the two with white shoes and gloves.

One of them blue, and the other one pink, with a white bow on top.

Taranza says, "Lakesprits, these are the King and Queen of Eden Land, Lolo and Lala!"⁹

⁴ This happened in Kirby's Dream Land 2.

⁵ This happened in Kirby's Dream Land 3.

⁶ Also true in Kirby canon, it happened in Kirby 64: The Crystal Shards.

⁷ In Kirby Triple Deluxe, despite all the feats that Kirby has done in previous games, Taranza doesn't consider Kirby the "Hero of the Lower World" until the end of the game, instead, Taranza thinks of King Dedede as such at the beginning of the game.

⁸ Also a thing that happened in Kirby's Dream Land 2 and Kirby's Dream Land 3.

⁹ Not to be mistaken with Lololo and Lalala. In this poem, Lolo and Lala follow the canon of the Eggerland, or Adventures of Lolo series, rather than that canon of the Kirby games.

The two of them pose in front of us as they present themselves.

"I'm Lolo, and I'm the King of Eden Land, a great friend of Sectonia." Lolo says.

Lala then says, "And I'm Lala, the Queen of Eden Land, and part of its lineage."

Lolo continues, "We once met at a summit when our parents were monarchs...

That's when we met Sectonia, who was a princess at that moment.

I can tell you, we're not just allies¹⁰... We also have a lot of fun together as friends!"

"It's a pleasure to meet you two." Quentin says, and tells them our names.

So the group talks to each other about the fun moments they had in the past.

In the meantime, me and Taranza look at each other, and notice something.

The two of us tie our scarves the same way! We tie it at the middle!

"Oh! Heh, that's interesting, that's a traditional Floralian knot!" Taranza says.

I giggle, "I didn't know that. Emronia also happened to tie her scarf like that too!"

"I wouldn't mind having something in common with you." Taranza tells me.

I blush and tell him, "Yeah, me neither. I think it's actually a cool thing!"

"I would love that. I think you'd make a great friend!" The spider says.

I then say, "I completely agree! We could hang out at your house someday!"

"Well, since I serve the Queen, her Palace is my dwelling." He laughs and says.

I nod, "Makes sense to me. I still think it would be fun to see your place."

"Surely! We could even teach magic to each other!" Taranza says.

And so, we all flew smoothly back up to the higher islands, to relax.

¹⁰ See endnote 3: "Tyranny"

Book III – Mysterious weaving

1 - Coffee and Questions

A day has passed, and we're once again walking on the tiled streets below the bridges.

"Who do you think would know about Kirby's whereabouts?" Quentin asks me.

I take a look of the place. An aged Floralian hands out balloons to the youth at his stand.

From behind, spiders and other bugs hurry up as they head to work.

A window opens for a person of the sky to water her plants as she sings.

Then, I notice a coffeehouse out in the distance, which houses a library.

The bell rings over the door as we cross it and smell the scent of coffee and wood.

"I'd like a mocha, with extra chocolate on it, of the biggest size." I ask as I sit on a stool.

Quentin takes off his hat and asks, "Oh, I'd like hot chocolate, please."

A whole pitcher filled with some thick brown coffee is served in front of me.

On top of it a layer of smooth cream, which is as thick as birthday cake meringue.

And then, to finish it off, shaved milk chocolate rains above everything.

As I drink it, I overhear a conversation between two clients sitting at a banquette.

"I don't know, Philo. Maybe you should cut Kirby some slack." A waddle doo says.

Philo, a person of the sky, says, "Gaspard. This society asserts good to Kirby.

Kirby is believed to not just be good, but, also almighty. We allow his power to be infinite.

But, the fact that he has not taken the responsibility to help Popstar is telling of him.

Why would a being with such qualities not will it at a time of greatest ill?

Is he willing to prevent evil, but unable? Then he might not be almighty.¹¹

Is he able to prevent evil, but unwilling? Then he might not be perfectly good.¹²

Is he the almighty embodiment of love and friendship? Whence then is evil?"¹³

I take a big sip and wonder. Does Kirby have a responsibility to keep the planet safe?

Certainly it's generous of him to help others. But, I wonder if its a choice or obligation.

It could possibly be that seeing others happy and safe... makes him happy in return.

Philo then says, "I might not remember well, but Kirby once freed Nightmare."¹⁴

He was allegedly the cause of all the disturbing dreams we had a few years ago.

I remember clearly that King Dedede was trying to stop that crisis."

Gaspard holds his head, "But, Philo. Kirby defeated Nightmare afterwards.

And, for your argument. Even if Kirby were to have done evil things, as you say...

¹¹ In Kirby Planet Robobot, if you pause while Kirby has no ability, there's text that says that Kirby "possesses infinite power". This is supposedly told from the perspective of Star Dream.

¹² The views expressed by the characters in this poem do not necessarily reflect my own views.

¹³ This quote is adapted from a David Hume book, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion. In that work, the quote happens to be said by a character called Philo.

¹⁴ In Kirby's Adventure (and its remake, Kirby: Nightmare in Dream Land), at the end of the game, Kirby places the Star Rod on the Fountain of Dreams. This frees the antagonist of the game, Nightmare. But King Dedede didn't want Kirby to free Nightmare, so Nightmare could remain sealed. At the end, Kirby defeats Nightmare.

The amount of good things he has done outnumber anything bad you've told me about. He has even helped King Dedede become better as a person ever since the two met."¹⁵ Quentin whispers to me, "I believe that King Dedede might know more about Kirby. Maybe we should pay him a visit, since he's known the puffball personally."

¹⁵ King Dedede was a villain in Kirby's first game, Kirby's Dream Land. But, after that game, King Dedede has generally become more friendly towards Kirby.

2 – Expedition

Just when we're about to head down to Dreamland, I get a call from Taranza himself.

"Hey, Povynn! I wanted to let you know that we're ready for an expedition!

It is optional to come, but, I'd really appreciate it if you did it. The Queen would too."

Quentin and Emronia look at each other and then nod. This is happening!

Out in the skies, away from the Kingdom, the council reunites once again.

It's me with the lakesprits, the rulers of Edenland, and Sectonia with her servant.

Nearly all of us are flying high up above, except for Lolo and Lala who are on warp stars.¹⁶

"Before we venture into the other world..." Taranza says, "I'd suggest you try these."

He then hands us over skydiving goggles with dark polarized lenses.

Up in the sky, miles above the planet, there floats a mirror with a golden baroque frame.

"That is the portal to the Mirror World."¹⁷ Lala says, "We have to enter one by one."

She then warns, "Though, just to keep you safe, you should close your eyes as you do."

And so, each one of us crossed through the mirror, from the royals to us lakesprits.

¹⁶ Lolo and Lala don't fly in the Adventures of Lolo series. In the Kirby anime, Fololo and Falala, who are inspired by Lololo and Lalala (from the Kirby games), are able to fly. But, despite the similarity in looks, Fololo and Falala have a way different story than the story that Lolo and Lala have.

¹⁷ See endnote 4: "Infiltration"

3 - Out in the wild

As I open my eyes, I find myself inside what looks like a giant open temple or arena.

There's big silvery columns forming a circle and arches with stars on top.

Above it, a purple sky with golden clouds illuminates the area with its smaller stars.

My friends and the council stand over platforms of glass that almost look like ice.

I stand on top of some snowy clouds, with smaller stars sprinkled on them.

Several mirrors, each of a different frame, can be seen resting on each platform.

However, one mirror at the middle is missing its glass. It's just a mere frame.

"Since this is your first time here, let's start somewhere easy." The Queen tells us.

She then turns around and flies into one of the mirrors, so we follow her.

I open my eyes again, and I find myself in a forest under the light of a moon.

Though, it still feels very clear to see, as if it were the early morning, or the evening.

Quentin scratches his back, "So... What is the objective of this adventure?"

"Well, it is likely that Dark Mind hides himself in a certain broken mirror." Sectonia says. Lala whispers, "In fact, it is a mirror that his henchmen tried to hide away from us."

"So, we've been collecting each piece with care and safety." Sectonia adds.

She then flourishes her dual rapiers and swings them at a rope holding a platform.

"This way!" She tells us, as we run and jump while following her lead.

Several creatures come and launch themselves towards us, or even send projectiles.

"Hah!" Lolo says as he launches a white ball which covers a flying blade into an egg.¹⁸

Some sort of egg, I think. It looks like it. The blade is fully covered into a white sphere.

We're stopped by the Queen as we face a knight covered in red armor, twice as big as us.

The knight's sword is swung at each one of us, making us jump and roll to the side.

Lolo throws another white ball at the knight, but it doesn't manage to do its job.

Taranza looks around and sticks glowing web strings into the Sir Kibble that attacked us.

His gloves move in intricate ways, as the kibble launches a blade towards the knight.

Sectonia then flies with both of her rapiers up front, and deals a final blow.

We fly up above a vertical cave, with ladders, and leave to see a mansion at the distance.

"That's the Moonlight Mansion."¹⁹ Lala says, "One of the shards might be there."

We head towards the entrance, and find a round golem with heavy arms guarding it.

Taranza then casts a web that covers the whole golem, but then struggles holding it.

Sectonia calls us, "Let's throw them away from us!" and assists Taranza.

We get near the golem, to hold the web, but then the golem breaks out and looks at us.

And, with that, I get punched by one of the golem's arms, and swung away.

Emronia catches me and brings me back, "Povynn! I hope you are alright!"

I nod at her and stand on the back, as the rest of the battle ensues.

The spiders cast a web again, and, with the help of Quentin, they swing it far away.

"Okay, let's do this!" Taranza cheers, as we enter the mansion through its wide hall.

¹⁸ This is one of Lolo's attacks in his games. Sometimes, the game manuals refer to this as a "Magic shot"

¹⁹ Moonlight Mansion is one of the levels in Kirby & The Amazing Mirror.

4 - Searching for clues

The mansion is dark, but, colorful in a way. Its wood is purple and wallpapers blue. Dim lit lamps, bookshelves, and even a few grandfather clocks decorate the inside.

We stay close together as we hover across the hall, and reach a big room.

Sectonia stops the group and says, "Since we're looking for clues and a shard...

I suggest splitting up into smaller groups who'll look on each corner."

"But, wouldn't that make it easier to get ambushed?" Quentin asks.

The Queen then says, "I'm making sure I'll heal you later. You'll be safe, I promise.

Here's my suggestion, the lakesprites stay together as a group of three.

Lolo and Lala, who are more experienced, stay as a pair together.²⁰

And, of course, me and Taranza also stay together as another pair."²¹

So, the three groups part ways and head into a different area of the building.

I open a door and walk alongside Quentin and Emronia through a hall.

"I wonder what whoever lives here reads?" I say as I look at a bookshelf.

There's books titled "The Art of Wind", and "Introduction to Sword Combat,"

I also stumble upon another one, called "How to become successful through imitation.

"That's an interesting taste in literature... Perhaps I might give it a read myself.

I hope the residents don't mind if these books disappear for an hour or two.

On another room, we find three switches²², and some closed walls.

"Okay, if this button activates an alarm, get ready." Quentin whispers above one.

With that button pressed, one wall opens, revealing another similar wall.

"Okay, one of those buttons will probably open the next wall." He whispers.

The next button is pressed, and that wall rises as it reveals a room with entrances.

"I suppose we're in the access control room." Emronia suggests as she looks around.

"Then this one might open something vital." Quentin says regarding the final button.

With the button pressed, one wall descends and blocks one door in the room.

Quentin says, "That's odd, the buttons stay pressed. Why would they be that way?"

Emronia flies towards the recently closed wall and hits it with her fists.

"Come on! Open up!" She says. Then she tries to move it with telekinesis, really hard.

But, the wall remains firm. It's hard as metal, and really heavy too.

After hitting the wall several times, we turn around and see a flock of enemies.

We're being stared by a crowd of waddle doos, bats, and some green²³ creatures too.

I shrug at my friends and then summon my weapon in front of everyone.

Then I swing it from one side to the other, pushing aside most of the enemies.

"Run!" I exclaim as the three of us fly away from the scene and pick another exit.

As I run. Someone with a white cubic mask and a white jacket hides beneath a door.

²⁰ See endnote 5: "Lolo and Lala's Adventure"

²¹ See endnote 6: "Sectonia and Taranza's Journey"

²² In the actual game, these are Bomb Blocks.

²³ Snooters.

I try to open it, but it remains locked, so we keep fleeing away from the mob.
After flying and knocking over furniture, we find a way that only leads downwards.
There's no other way to go right now. So, we all fly down to wherever it takes us to.

5 - Surprise me

We find ourselves at a big room, stuck not only with the eventual angry crowd...
But also someone really big, as in, nearly as big as this room, and made of bricks.

Stuck in the floor, looking as if a tower of a castle were given life.
The top being like the walls of a battlement, his eyes are tall holes with brick brows.

Even having a mustache below his slab of a nose.
And at his sides, he had hands of stone, which are like twice as big as us.
I land on the floor and ask, "What is your name, astonishing being of bricks?"
"I am the King Golem, and I'm guarding this mansion." He says to us.
His hands slam on the floor as the room rumbles and debris fall from above.
Not only that, but, the mob that chased us was now jumping into this room.
"You can say... we're demolitionists." I say, and summon my spear.

So, I run towards him, jump and chisel him away.
Rocks fall into each corner as he hits the ground harder, and as my friends dodge.
Emronia's hands and eyes glow as she grabs a bunch of rocks and sends them at him.
Quentin jumps into the back and blows a tornado of rocks back into the golem.
I realize I got some books with me, so I grab them and launch them at the enemy.

But then, from his mouth, the King spits out a much smaller golem at us.
I myself as I hold my weapon in my hands and swing it at both beings of stone.
Foes fall along with the rocks, ready to hit us, and my friends struggle to keep up.

I jump, my weapon shines as it takes on a form of a hammer,
At the middle of the air, I launch several rocks and foes back at the giant golem.
And then, my weapon goes back to its main form and fly towards him.
But then, from the rain of rocks and pursuers, two known orbs fall into our enemy.
The King Golem crumbles as Lolo and Lala make a heavy fall onto his top.
His hands flat out, fall into the ground. Emronia and Quentin emerge from the debris.

"Uuugh, I can't go on... I don't even know what you want!" The golem says.
I point my spear and say, "If anyone asks who bested you at combat...
Tell them it was us, Povynn, Emronia, and Quentin from the Council of Seven Years!
Now then, if you don't us to pulverize you, tell us about Dark Mind."

He cries, "I swear I don't know anything! I just sit here and relax with my golems!"
Then, Lolo and Lala come from his mouth, holding a cloth with something inside.
"He was hiding one of the mirror shards..." Lolo whispers, "Deep inside him!"
Sectonia and Taranza reach the floor and gasp at the situation.
"Woah, you three were fast. Perhaps you can take on harder missions." Taranza says.
Emronia and Quentin blush and scratch their backs, "Thanks, I guess!"
"Come on, you have to be proud! We've been doing this for months now!" Taranza says.
I tell him, "Well, I'm glad you like what we do. Anything to help spiders like you."

Book IV – Motivating the monarchs

1 - Let's go away

It's the next morning, and we're having breakfast at the highest island of Royal Road.

The dining room has a long table, beneath this garden with trees covering the sky.

Taranza serves us plates and drinks. My glass is filled with a colorful soft drink.

"This one is made from flower petals and other fruits." The spider tells me.

There are bowls of rice with eggs, tiny cuts of avocado and sauce on top of them.

Next to them, we have well-baked bread filled with blends of sauces and protein.

On the other side, tiny sliders of burgers with lettuce, spices, and sauces.

With a few cuts of fried potatoes hiding behind them, along with three condiments.

The plates are as white as marble, with ornaments resembling laurel on the side.

And they are laid on top of that long tablecloth with repeating symmetrical leaves.

I ask, "Taranza, does this mean that this blend includes miracle fruit?"

He wags his finger, "It doesn't. Miracle fruits are used to grant magic to someone.

Though, we do have plenty in stock, so, if you want, you can ask next time."

The rest of our group, the council, are having either milkshakes or natural juice.

"Yesterday we did great." Queen Sectonia comments, "So, let us relax for today.

You lakesprites can go wherever you please. Lala and I will be at Wild World.²⁴"

That place that Sectonia mentions is one of the Floralian islands, filled with jungles.

Sectonia asks me, "So, Povynn. Would you tell me, what do you work as?"

"What do I work as?" I say, "I'm a psychologist. I research, write, and do counseling.

As of now, I am employed in a position called Coronetian Guardian²⁵, given by Arceus.

It not only requires me to research what a world does, but, I also must take action.

Curiously enough, that position has been vacant for a long time, until I asked for it."

I taste my drink, and it's pretty good. It's fruity, but, with flavors I didn't know about.

"How about you two, Emronia and Quentin." Queen Sectonia asks.

"Quentin recently started a doctorate so he can become a surgeon." Emronia says.

She then says, "As for me, I recently led expeditions towards unexplored places."

The Queen and the others find it interesting. I think we all make a great team.

"Speaking of expeditions, we could go check King Dedede." Emronia suggests to me.

I respond, "Of course. Last time it was too late. Now it's the perfect time to do it."

So, we finish the dishes²⁶, say our goodbyes, and head towards the edge of the island.

The clouds below this edge are blown softly, covering lakes and mountains.

I nod to Emronia and Quentin, and we all jump off, head down, out of the Kingdom.

The wind hits strong as we dive, the three of us fly in formation as we begin our search.

²⁴ See endnote 7: "Girls' day out"

²⁵ The name was inspired by Mount Coronet, which is where the Temple of Sinnoh, or Spear Pillar, is located. Above the temple, there is the Hall of Origin, which is the place where Arceus is located.

²⁶ See endnote 8: "Let's throw a party"

Our arms open as we slow our fall and glide forward, to the horizon, like an Emolga.
Crossing perfectly round hills topped with grass, below stars of many colors.
Forests covered with roofs of leaves and castles with elegant windows of golden frames.
Our destination lies at a castle of two tiers atop a rocky mountain.

2 – Invitation

At the castle of the King of Dream Land, we arrive, just at the entrance.

Two waddle dees guard with spears, and ask us about our business.

"We're investigating the disappearance of Kirby." Quentin says.

Emronia adds, "Maybe your King could have a clue, since he's very close to the puffball."

The waddle dees whisper to each other, and whisper to another waddle dee in the back.

"Do you bring... any mirrors with you?" One waddle dee asks while inspecting us.

Emronia says, "We don't, last time, my makeup kit was confiscated by Floralian guards."

The waddle dee gasps. Emronia clarifies, "Listen, it wasn't any of those evil mirrors!"

"We're actually trying to find Kirby so he helps us defeat Dark Mind!" I tell them.

More waddles come by, and hear our words. Some realize and invite the King.

After some minutes, the King appears. He's huge compared to us, three times our size.

His appearance is like the one of a bird, a penguin, or an eagle, with blue feathers.

He's wearing a red hat with a fuzz ball at the end, and red robes that reach the floor.

A cream colored shirt is inside his robes, and orange gloves on his hands.

With a determined look on his face, he asks, "So, you want to know about Kirby?"

The three of us nod at him, and he says, "To be honest, I haven't seen him in a while.

His house has been uninhabited for long, and he didn't even tell me where he went."

I scratch my head and look at my friends, "Well, where else do we get from here?"

"Your Majesty, what was the last time you saw Kirby?" Quentin asks.

King Dedede responds, "He was having some great days with his pals before he left."

Kirby does have friends, including Dedede, so, any of them could give clues.

"By any chance, Your Majesty, has anyone else gone missing at the same time?" I ask.

After a moment of pondering, he says, "Oh, indeed. It was one of my waddle dees!

He protected this land with his spear, and wore a blue bandana in his head."²⁷

So, I ask him, "Is there any way we could contact this waddle dee?"

He pulls a phone and looks over it. Then, he pulls a pocket-sized notepad.

"Well, I do have his work number... but, it's not active at this time." He tells us.

The King then adds, "If anyone has his personal number, I'll tell you about it."

"Thanks." We nod at him, and then walk away as I ask, "So, what should we do next?"

"We could just relax up in Floralia for now," Quentin says, "Or, also..."

"Your Majesty," he then asks, "Would you be interested in finding Dark Mind?"

A group of waddle dees look at King Dedede as he looks into the horizon.

"Is it with the Floralian Queen? I may be able to fly, but I can't fly so high." He says.

After a moment, he adds, "But perhaps there's another way I could get there."

²⁷ This character is known as Bandana Waddle Dee, and is one of the main characters in recent Kirby games.

3 - Flightful birds

We come back to Royal Road, to take photos and tour the rest of the island.

The Floralians wave at us, as we walk towards the main square.

But then, at the midst of it, we see a giant airship land at one of the docks.

I think I recall seeing it before, it's really long and thin at the front, with a mask there.

To it's sides it has four giant purple bat wings. And it's topped by several cannons.²⁸

The Floralians look with astonished looks on their faces as they stare. Some run away.

And then, after all the dust settles from the landing, the gates open up.

King Dedede walks out from a staircase, with several waddle dees at his side.

Whispers regarding him are heard, as he bows and poses in front of the citizens.

Behind him, there walks an orb-shaped knight with a mask just like the ship.

He's blue, but, his shade of blue is clearly darker than the one that Lolo has.

On top of his white gloves, he wears shoulder pads, and behind him there's a cape.

Other whispers are heard amongst the crowd. Apparently, his name is Meta Knight.

On the side that leads to the castle, Sectonia flies, and looks over all of us.

"Aaaaah! Floralians! Get him!" She commands, as she points at the visitors.

The three of us stick together as we watch the citizens pick up spears, rocks, and guns.

"Woah woah woah! What did we do wrong?!" King Dedede holds his hands up.

Meta Knight and his army unleash their weapons and watch each other's backs.

But then, from the sky, people from the sky drop a giant bird cage onto the knight.

"Sir! We'll get you out immediatly!" his crew²⁹ exclaim as they attempt to free him.

The knight then unleashes a tornado from the inside to break away.

Amongst all the Floralians, the Queen takes off, with her flying cloak, and angry.

With a sharp, shining sword, on each of her six gloves, she lands in front of him.

"Stooooop!" King Dedede yells, and lifts up his hammer, with a victory hand symbol on it.

Sectonia slams against the cage, breaking it away. Then, sounds of slashes are heard.

An explosion flashes, blowing away all of us, dust covering all over the street.

I rub my eyes, and then, I see Meta Knight and Sectonia parrying swords.

They're arguing with each other, shouting words at each other.

"Queen Sectonia...! You must be mistaken!" the Knight tells her.

The two jump away from each other and stare at each other.

She gasps and covers her mouth, "Oh... no. You're not him!"

Meta Knight nods, "I must have notified you before."

"I sincerely apologize!" She puts her gloves together.

The Queen is sobbing, and apologizing to all of us.

The crowd puts away their projectiles and sharp sticks.

"Her Majesty? Why did that happen?" I asked Sectonia.

²⁸ That ship is called the Halberd.

²⁹ Meta Knight does indeed have a crew that goes with him while he's on his ship. This crew appears in "Revenge of Meta Knight", one of the games that come in Kirby Super Star.

She lets out a breath, "There's a certain enemy that... looks a lot like him."
"I assure you, Her Majesty," Meta Knight says, "That we'll look out for this doppelganger."

4 - Keep an eye out

The late evening falls over this Kingdom, as I take a stroll through the city.
That is when I notice the same masked figure I saw yesterday, out in the park.
"Hey, I think I have seen you before." I say, "You were in the Mirror World mansion!"
Just like yesterday, he is dressed in all white clothes, from his helmet to his boots.
He looks like a teru teru bouzu, one of these white dolls made for the rain.
A long, white cloak, with several belts by the middle of his chest.
Most likely a way to close that cloak. Makes him look like a rockstar³⁰ or a soldier.
Inside that cloak, there seems to be a big white jacket extending to his boots.
And above the cloak, there's an scarf bigger and puffier than mine, torn at the ends.
But, the most interesting thing, is that he's wearing a cube-shaped helmet.
It completely leaves his head to mystery. Instead, the helmet only bears a single eye.
"You were with the Queen, right?" He asks, "You seem to be quite strong."
He extends his glove and says, "My name is Neblino. What would your name be?"
"I'm Povynn." I say as I shake his hand, "Though, I wonder where do you come from."
"I'm not native to Popstar," He says, "However, I made a group of friends in this planet."
I follow him as he leads me outside the city, to the edge of the island.
"I still wonder what were you doing in the Mirror World, knowing it's dangerous." I say.
"I too, am interested in uncovering Dark Mind's secrets." He tells me.
He also adds, "Even if it's dangerous, I think this experience will make me stronger."
The winds are strong as we look at the horizon and at the other islands below.
He turns to me, "Our group will meet up soon, would you like to meet them?"
I nod at him, and so, he jumps off into the islands below, and I follow him.
We arrive at the third lowest island of the Kingdom, called Old Odyssey.
This island has a desert across it, but, there are also snowy mountains on the side.
We land in front of a big wooden house, nearly the peak of a mountain.
It's founded on top of stone, and a sign on top of the door reads. "Roundkick Lodge."³¹

³⁰ Freddie Mercury's yellow jacket.

³¹ There is a lodge in real life called Roundhouse Lodge. It's located in Whistler, British Columbia.

5 - Sky lodge

The doors open for us, as it opens to a warm cozy lodge, with buffet and couches.
This house's ceiling and walls are almost completely made out of wood.
However, there's a nice view of the mountains and of Popstar through the windows.
A group of creatures, all of them apparently being from Popstar, wave at Neblino.
Some of them are writing things down on a map that sits on a coffee table.
At a corner, others are having fun playing games like darts, or pinball.
"Back in my home, I was so bored of the daily rat race." Neblino tells me.
He turns to me and says, "I wondered how to stand out and make life spark for me.
That's when I got the idea of organizing experiences that go beyond what society does.
With them, we'll be the ones who will make the world react and change forever."
A group of batamon, beings similar to Kirby, come and leave cake on the table.
Neblino tells me, "That thing you see right there, is Operation Keto.
Rumors say that if Kirby gets his cake stolen, he might even kill eldritch gods."³²
Basically beings like Dark Matter, Zero, or Dark Mind, you know, the evil powerful ones!
So, in the meantime, as Kirby remains missing, we plan to steal everyone's cakes!
In the future, people will not believe in gods, but, in their own ideals."
I tell him, "Well, I don't think any sound person takes their advice from eldritch gods."
"But, surely, we will tell society that the paradigm of power has changed." He responds.
Later, out in the snow of the mountain, Neblino points at a scarfy asks me to stay quiet.
He then, runs as he swiftly grabs it mid-air and covers him in tape.
From his cloak he grabs a rocket launcher and inserts the scarfy inside the cannon.
Then, as he aims at a bullseye, he shoots out the scarfy and blows up the the target.
"Of course, if you need someone to help with scarfy invasions, here I am." He says.
Later in the night we're hanging out at the lodge, telling each other jokes.
Gentle pensive music plays on the background, without vocals.
From a door, Neblino brings out a sax, but not a curved one, a straight soprano sax.
"I'm pretty good at the sax too." He says and begins playing smooth jaunty music.
It's getting pretty late, I close my eyes as I let a breath out and say, "Pretty music."³³
The smooth jaunty music continues as I wonder if I'll wake up later to go home.
But, maybe, this will do, maybe a little nap will be enough before I get up.
So, I let myself relax to the melody Neblino plays and to the feel of this lodge.

³² In Kirby: Squeak Squad, Kirby gets his cake stolen at the start of the game. At the end of the game, Kirby fights Dark Nebula, who is yet another enemy that resembles Dark Matter.

³³ In the music video for Kenny G's "Songbird", the subtitles start with (gentle pensive music), Kenny then plays a soprano sax, just like Neblino. When he plays, the subtitle (smooth jaunty music) is displayed. The same song then appears in the movie Cars, when street racing cars play that music to Mack (a Mack truck), who also gets sleepy and says this exact line.

Book V – Entwined feathers

1 - New mission

My phone rings as I wake up at the lodge, realizing that I slept the whole night.

"Huh? What's going on?" I say as I stare at the mountains covered in the morning light.

The building is nearly empty, a bartender cleans up cups at the buffet.

I check my pockets, nothing is missing. I pick up my phone and answer the call.

So, the Council of the Seven Years wants to go on a more challenging journey today.

And they can't wait to see what I can bring into the table.

So, I take my stuff and fly towards the usual place.

We all put on our skydiving goggles and dive into the mirror.

"This way!" Sectonia says as she leaps into a space-themed portal in the higher floor.

2 - Towards the stars

We arrive at an area³⁴ that appears to be higher than Floralia itself.
Me and my group stand in what seems to be a space station, or teal and golden colors.
There's tubes going between the platforms, along with the nuts and bolts.
Far away, there's a sky showing the light of the atmosphere and nebulae above.
We run across halls that resemble submarine or spaceship corridors.
"This time, let's all stay together," Lolo says, "So we don't get attacked one by one."
So we all jump across platforms, while dodging the beams of waddle doos.
We also jump over some spiky orb beings, like sea urchins, called gordos.
At a ledge, Lolo and Lala grab themselves into Taranza and Sectonia to fly together.
And so, we take some shortcuts away from the more risky parts of this area.
Then, after landing on another platform, we see a path made out of fragile blocks.
Waddle doos and gordos guard the area, and Taranza makes his gloves glow.
With his strings, the waddle doos jump out into a corner as Taranza controls them.
The path clears, and we carefully make a move towards the warp star on top.
Lolo and Lala take the star, and the rest of us follow the trail upwards.
Then, at our destination, we encounter... a giant floating glove.
"That... is Master Hand!" Lolo whispers to us, as the glove approaches us.
A malevolent laugh comes from the giant hand. "Who are you laughing at?!" Lolo says.
The hand then points with two fingers at Lolo... and the rest of us.
From those fingers, golden bullets come, and they come really fast.
Taranza grabs me as he saves me from the attack. "Now drop me above the hand." I say.
And so, he launches me towards the hand, and with my weapon, I stab the glove.
But then, I get grabbed, and I'm thrown back to the rest of the group.
Sectonia then sticks strings of silk on some gordos, and swings them at Master Hand.
The glove then flies away as we try to chase him, and then it disappears out in the air.
There's a path full of enemies and mazes ahead, "I'll clear the way." Taranza tells us.
And so, we follow his lead, as he goes from one side to the other, and then upwards.
Finally, at the highest part of the space station, we cross the portal above the sky.
Not only we see Master Hand approach us, but, we also saw another hand come to us.
"And that one... is Crazy Hand!" Lolo whispers to us.
Sectonia turns to the group and says, "Remember, one by one!"
So, we all get close, and run in formation, with the Floralian Queen leading the way.
Master Hand flies higher as Crazy Hand chases us, and tries to hit the floor.
"Grab on me!" Taranza tells Lolo as he grabs him. I look at Lala and let her grab me.
So the two of us fly towards Master hand, and Lala then jumps towards him.
She grabs a hammer³⁵ and then spins it around the glove, chipping it away.
"Now get back to me!" I tell Lala as she grabs me again, and I dive into the floor.

³⁴ Candy Constellation, from Kirby & The Amazing Mirror.

³⁵ It's possible to use a hammer power-up in the Adventures of Lolo series.

The council gets apart as I place the point of my spear on the point, and land safely.
Then, we keep running together, but then, the ones behind get smashed by the hands.
Both gloves got together and clapped us together, leaving Lolo and Taranza unharmed.

As the back-to-back attack ends, we walk away dizzy, trying to get our senses back.

We now all run to each corner, even trying to hide from the wrath of the hands.
Sectonia, who fled away with Lala, grabs a brown bottle with yellow cap out of her cloak.

"I feel better already." The Queen of Floralia says after drinking the whole bottle.³⁶

Taranza flies by and hands out bottles to the rest of us, and then flies into the distance.

Master Hand looks distracted, I'm gonna run as the others follow me.

So, I ran as fast as I can, with my weapon in my back, and jump towards him.

But then, I get slapped with the entire force of the back of Crazy Hand.

"Wooaaaaoooh!"³⁷ I scream out as I get flung far away³⁸ from the arena.

³⁶ This kind of bottle is referred to as an "Energy drink" in the instruction manuals of some Kirby games. They do appear in the Kirby games as a source of health points.

³⁷ The Super Mario 64 falling scream.

³⁸ See endnote 9: "Distant Destination"

3 - Found you again

Platforms and clouds with gordos and waddle doos pass by as I fall.
Foleys and bronto burts³⁹ fly on the distance as I'm thrown away from the constellation.
The sky lights up as I come closer to the surface, and the clouds fly to the sky.
Then, I softly land... on a floor of clouds⁴⁰? They were like cotton candy, but not sticky.
When I open my eyes, I find Neblino looking at me again, while holding a cooler.
"Look who showed up again." He says, "You got me just after getting some cake."
"Where do you end up storing those cakes?" I ask him as I get back up.
He starts walking alongside me, "Oh, I can't tell ya, because that's the point...
The point is to make everyone look and guess where the cakes went." He whispers.
In the distance, there's just a view of mountains, rivers, a lake, and a forest.
But, the area closer to us is made out of clouds with sprinkles, columns, and arches.
I then ask him, "That mask. Do you actually have one eye? Like a waddle doo?"
He looks back at me, and then flies away from me, while hugging his cooler.
"Maybe I shouldn't have used that as an example." I say as I find my way.
Eventually, I find a warp star, just in the open. This could take me back.
"Okay, you saw Lolo and Lala do it. Surely you can do it." I tell myself.
So, I grab the warp star, and it lifts off. I try tilting, but, I end up spinning over the star.
Then, I hug the star as it flies far away, into places further away from my group.
I try my best to dodge the people I almost run over, and then... I finally fly upwards.
Then, at the height where the nebulae decorate the sky, I turn towards my group.
I see the two hands, and the rest of the council taking turns to attack them.
"Make way!" I exclaim as I jump out of the star and let it fly towards the hands.
And so, the warp star that I used to travel crashed into Master Hand, finishing him off.
Meanwhile, Sectonia charges her blades at Crazy Hand and defeats him as well.
"Nooo, Povynn! You stole my frag!" Lolo cries, and then calmly says, "It's alright."
Sectonia then points her weapons at the hands, "Now tell me about Dark Mind!"
Lala looks inside of the gloves, finding a mirror shard, and then covers it in cloth.
"Amazing! Looks like we'll face Dark Mind in less than a week!" Lala says.

³⁹ Both Foleys and Bronto Burts are flying enemies from the Kirby series.

⁴⁰ The introduction level from Kirby & The Amazing Mirror.

4 - Hot evening

I heard from the spiders that King Dedede⁴¹ decided to stay at an inn in Old Odyssey. So, now us, the boys, me, Quentin, Lolo, and Taranza, are walking through its desert.

On the distance, we can see smaller islands flying alongside this one.

As for the path we walk, there are purple and red flowers on its sides.

"You guys know that I play music, right?"⁴² Lolo asks as we walk, "I got a cool idea." He says, "After all of this, I can host a concert that features me and other musicians!

I'm thinking of calling it... Lolopalooza⁴³! Though, there is one caveat.

My own band, that will play at the show, doesn't have a drummer as of now.

So, if any of you know someone who can learn and play for us, you can tell me."

I then suggest my idea, "Oh, my friend Hai plays the drums, he could play there!"

"Fantastic! I'll contact him, and if he agrees, I'll send him our setlist!" Lolo says.

A town⁴⁴ can be seen sitting atop plains as we see it from the top of a hill.

"That's where the inn is, let's see how Dedede's doing!" Lolo tells us.

After taking some nice views at the scenery of this place, we reach the place.

The buildings here are mostly made out of blends of stones, with colorful mosaics.

Some walls have wooden beam windows, which catch some extra sunlight.

Other buildings are yurt-like domes, mostly made of wooden panels.

"Not many people know about this town," Taranza tells us.

He then says, "Tourists seem to be more amused by Royal Road instead."

We arrive at the inn, and Taranza asks if King Dedede is lodging there.

And, he indeed is! But, Right now he's taking a stroll across town.

So, we keep walking around the town, trying to find him, just because we're curious.

I then notice that guy again, Neblino! He seems to be talking to a leeper.⁴⁵

A leeper... is like a frog, they then to jump fast, but, they also like to sleep.

They don't seem to see me, as they seem to be distracted talking to each other.

"I bet Floralian's won't trust Kirby at all!" Neblino says, "If all of that is true!"

The leeper says, "Mhm, I heard that Kirby helped a certain jester become super strong!"⁴⁶

I also heard that he's an animal abuser, since he harmed a bird mother.⁴⁷"

"Hey.... Povynn, there he is!" Quentin whispers to me, and I look to the other side.

And there's the King of Dreamland, he's with two waddle dee bodyguards.

"Nice to see you again, King Dedede." I say as I shake his glove.

"It was a bit tough getting here, but, we did it." He says, "Anyways, what are you up to?"

⁴¹ See endnote 10: "How he got in there"

⁴² Lolo can play music, according to the Adventures of Lolo game that was released on the Game Boy.

⁴³ It's a pun on the Lollapalooza music festival.

⁴⁴ This town is an original creation of this poem.

⁴⁵ One of the enemies in the Adventures of Lolo series. This enemy jumps a lot, and sleeps when Lolo gets nearby.

⁴⁶ The story of Milky Way Wishes, in Kirby Super Star.

⁴⁷ Dyna Blade, in Kirby Super Star.

Taranza then says, "Well, I think we're basically ready to fight Dark Mind."
Dedede feels astonished, "Wait, really?!", his eyes are wide open.
"Oh, no, not right now! We're planning to do it after tomorrow." Taranza clears up.
Dedede clears off the sweat, and walks alongside us, "Phew! You almost got me."
We then find Neblino and the leeper, who look at us surprised.
"So, Neblino. Is it true that Kirby freed Nightmare and helped a jester?" I ask him.
"The name of the jester might be Marx, by the way." Lolo whispers on my side.
Neblino nods to me while folding his arms, "Yup, that's what people told me!"
"King Dedede, you know Kirby better, do you think all of that is true?" I ask.
The bird ponders and then points out, "Actually, no"⁴⁸. And I can tell you why.
After Kirby stopped me from hoarding the food from the land around me⁴⁹ ...
I went on a quest, myself, to defeat a dark wizard called Nightmare!
People say that Kirby didn't know better and just freed him away!
But, what really happened is that me, along with Meta Knight, fought Nightmare.
We were the ones who gathered the star rod and beat him up that night!"
Neblino then looked around, and pointed at one of the two moons in the sky.
"That moon right there, has a hole, I heard it was from the fight, right?" He asks.
"You are right about that," Dedede says, "After the first strikes, Kirby came to help.
He did not free Nightmare, he assisted us in trying to defeat him.
Then, at the moon, he got him almost done, and then, I dealt the final blow!
And that's when that part of the moon blew up! Kirby had to rescue me back"⁵⁰!"
Neblino then says, "But, how about that time Kirby helped a jester?"
"I can answer that," Lolo says, "Is the name of the jester Marx, right?"
Neblino nods, "Yeah, I think he became really powerful after Kirby helped him."
Lolo then explains, "Okay, so here's what happened... it wasn't Kirby who did it.
One day, me and Lala saw the sun and one moon of Popstar fighting each other.
So, Marx approached us and suggested that we could ask the Galactic Nova to stop it.
Nova is a gigantic space structure, that could make wishes come true.
We had to gather stars to give Nova power to wake up and grant that wish.
Once we gathered all we needed, we woke Nova up, so it could solve the problem.
But, just when it was about to happen, Marx pushed us aside!

⁴⁸ This poem intentionally deviates from Kirby canon in some aspects. The intention of the Kirby plot in the poem is to discuss the subtext and consequences of how Kirby has been written during each game, and the different perceptions that fans have on Kirby (For example: Kirby either being the embodiment of friendship, or Kirby going on a rampage after getting his cake stolen)
The discussion of Kirby's character is also taken to a narrative level, since those who try to smear Kirby's reputation have... certain ulterior motives in the story.
I know it's silly. I know it's polemic. But, this is the culmination of years of discussion regarding the pink puffball.

⁴⁹ Kirby's Dream Land is still canon in this poem.

⁵⁰ A different take on the story of Kirby's Adventure, this definitely deviates from the canon of the games.

And then, he asked to have control over Popstar!

That's when the two of us had to enter Nova and somehow turn it off!

When we came back out of it, the two of us grabbed hammers and beat up Marx!

And, at the final blow, I launched Marx into space, right into the Galactic Nova.

That was with the intent of making guys like Marx not do such things again.⁵¹

At the end, the sun and that moon just calmed down when we returned to Popstar!"

Neblino and the leeper shake with anxiety and remain silent.

"Well, if you're strong enough to take on Nightmare and Marx..." Neblino says.

"Then, let's have a dual duel between us and you two!" He tells Lolo and Dedede.

The leeper jumps in fear and then runs away from the scene.

"He... he'll come back, I swear!" Neblino exclaims, and faces the two.

The cubic masked guy, Neblino, extends a scythe out of his white jacket.

Lolo leaps with a somersault to the back and holds some white spheres.

Meanwhile, King Dedede pulls out his wooden hammer, and holds it by his back.

Neblino swings his scythe from one side to the other, as fast as the swing of a bat.

Dedede and Lolo jump away, as Dedede keeps holding his mallet tight.

Then, the barrel of Dedede's hammer catches fire, and he swings it at Neblino.

Neblino jumps a somersault, but then rolls of the ground after his clothes catch fire.

He then extends his hands as he shoots circles of pink light into the bird King.

Dedede feels his eyes closes, and his head moves from one side to the other.

He tries to run as he holds his hammer, but, he barely can move in a straight line.

Neblino then runs around as he dodges Dedede's hammer, and then affects Lolo as well.

Dedede then shakes his head, and slams his hammer over Neblino like a Whac-a-mole.

"Ooouw! Time out! You win this time around!" Neblino tells Dedede and Lolo.

King Dedede then asks, "So, where did you hear this information about Kirby?"

"I...I just got here on Popstar! I swear that's what I heard people say!" Neblino says.

Dedede then says, "But, what kind of people did you hang out with?"

"Well, I think... they were from the land of King Egger." Neblino answers.

Lolo covers his fist, "That's it! King Mayon could be giving Kirby bad publicity!"

"So, do you want me to go with you?" King Dedede asks Lolo.

Lolo shakes his head, "Oh, you don't have to. I'll bring Lala with me."

⁵¹ In this poem, the story of Milky Way Wishes actually has Lolo and Lala as the protagonists.

Book VI – Taking names

1 - Interplanetary calls

The next day, as we left our hotel, we see King Dedede and Meta Knight run to us.

"Povynn, Emronia, Quentin... I got good news for you three." Dedede tells us.

Some waddle dees come by, and one of them carries a cellphone.

"We found out that one of them has the bandana waddle dee contact." Meta Knight says.

The waddle dee with the phone navigates through the menus and finds it.

King Dedede receives the phone, and listens to the dial sound.

It keeps going and going, as I tap my foot and look at Dedede closely.

"Hello?" King Dedede says, a voice with some static is heard through the phone.

"It is me, the King of Dreamland!" He says through the phone, "Got it..."

"I wonder... where are you right now?" He asks, and repeats the question over and over.

"Planet... something?" He asks, trying to figure out between all the muddled sounds.

The King cheers up and then says, "Got it now! Thanks a lot!", he later ends the call.

We're told that Bandana waddle dee and Kirby are at a planet outside this star system.

Meta Knight gives us maps, and we all head towards the dock.

Apart from Meta Knight's ship, there are also three warp stars stationed there.

"I... I haven't piloted one of those before." Emronia says.

Meta Knight then tells her, "Oh, it's simple, I can teach you if you want."

After a simple lesson from the knight, we left Popstar while on top of warp stars!

2 - Star travel

In our travels, we're finding planets of different colors and biomes.
They all look interesting, we might even want to go to one of those someday!
We leave the star system that Popstar is part of, and keep going forward.
We make our way below and above the nebulae, and between asteroids.
Then, as we reach another star system, we find a green planet full of life.
As we get close we see it's blue oceans, and high mountains.
The planet seems to have a forest that nearly spans its entirety
There are a lot of pine-like trees, and also giant bonsai trees.
Some trees are nearly hill-sized, standing out from the rest.
We look at our maps and head towards a part of the forest.
As we slow down, we find a really calm lake, with no buildings next to it.
Then, we spot an RV with a portable table next to it, and two figures sitting by.
A pink puffball, and a waddle dee with a blue bandana on top of his head.
Yes, that's definitely them! After searching on every corner, we found Kirby.
He holds an octuple-stacker sandwich with lettuce, slices of meat, cheese, and more.
His mouth opens wide open and devours the whole thing in a single bite.
Our stars create ripples over the water as we slow down and reach the shore.
We step out and slowly approach the two Dreamlanders.
"Hello? Are you... Kirby?" I ask the puffball, who nods at me in response.
"King Dedede brought us here, and we promise we'll be good." I tell the two.
Bandana Waddle Dee, who I will call Bandee, nods and says, "Cool, you can sit with us!"
"Thanks for welcoming us," Quentin says, "I must say, this is such a pleasant forest."
Bandee nods, "It's perfect for relaxing and taking a breather."
At the table lunch, we have a fun talk, and tell the two about lakesprits, and Arceus.
We also learn more about Kirby's life. Turns out he's quite peaceful and caring.
Stones skip as we throw them across the lake and talk to each other.
"Kirby indeed looks after the happiness of his friends." Bandee tells us.
He adds, "If someone ever says that he goes on a rampage over a cake⁵², it's not true."
We walk into the inside of the RV, which looks clean, with a kitchen, and two beds.
There's a cozy hall between the kitchen and the bedroom, with wood-textured tiles.
The couches which sit by the walls are comfy and fancy as those of an airport lounge.
Above there's drawers that hold several items, let it be game boards or tools.
"This looks beautiful! Where did you buy all of this?" Emronia asks.
Kirby whispers to Bandee, who later says, "Oh, the two of us built it together!"
The pink puffball then drives the vehicle, and heads in a tour across the forest.
Bandee relaxes on the couch as we sit alongside him, and talk about our adventures.
"You three sure are some brave adventurers!" Bandee giggles, "We're like that too!"
There's even video games and television in here, so we played for a bit.

⁵² That is basically the plot of Kirby: Squeak Squad.

After a return to the lake, we all take a walk by the shore.

"So, here's the question that we all wanted to hear..." Quentin asks Bandee and Kirby.

Quentin asks, "We want to know why you two took a vacation out of Popstar."

Kirby once again whispers to Bandee, who nods at him and whispers back to him.

"Basically... we wanted to take a break until a new threat emerges." Bandee says.

He then tells us, "After several adventures where Kirby defeated different evildoers, People were eager to ask Kirby for any request, knowing of his power.

Though, the problem was, that many of these wishes contradicted each other.

Those who lived in the land of Egger wanted Kirby to harm Floraliens and Edenlanders.

While those on Edenland and Floralia wanted Kirby to end King Mayon's reign.

I'm aware that those two wishes vary in how good they are, but this is just an example.

Kirby appears to be the hero of everyone, but, many people have different ideals.

People started debating on what made Kirby good or evil, and it got really ugly!

So, Kirby and I took a trip towards this planet to make people chill out.

And if any kind of unanimously evil enemy like Zero emerges, Kirby will return."

I wonder how such dilemmas can be solved. I recall one of my beliefs.

That is, that avoiding dilemmas can be better at the end, as we try to benefit everyone.

The problems of a zero sum game can be avoided by just avoiding the game itself.

Though, if the avoidance is worse, then, we'd have to pick the best possible thing.

Another thing is that evil could be caused of the foolishness of someone,

It could be not seeing the long term benefits, or not knowing that society can help.

Or sometimes it's something more complicated like the lack of opportunity.

If you're able to do anything and make any resource available...

Then it comes down to researching the ends of anybody's means to well being.

And then making sure their ends are fulfilled through benevolent means.

The good means ought to convince people to choose them over the evil means.

I often think about this when I ponder about how to maximize everyone's happiness.

"Well, it just happens that we're planning to fight someone like Zero." Emronia says.

The three of us then talk about the whole quest we're having to defeat Dark Mind.

"Ooh, gotcha. Well, we can assure, you've done a great job so far!" Bandee says.

He then says, "You will most likely be recognized as heroes, just like Kirby!

And you're also proof that Popstar doesn't have depend on Kirby to be saved.

Even if Kirby can save it, you make the people of Popstar feel more secure.

This is also why Kirby takes a break sometimes, so others can become heroes too.

Surely, Kirby can come and help in this situation. What do you think?"

Emronia suggests, "Well, if there's a way to undo the corruption the mirrors caused.

I think it would be great. Kirby did save others from possessions before, right?"

"Of course, Kirby will figure it out." Bandee nods, "He has saved others before."

I also ask, "In that case, could Kirby join us in defeating Dark Mind?"⁵³

Kirby whispers to Bandee, who nods to him and agrees.

⁵³ Kirby (or the multiple Kirbys) heroically defeats Dark Mind in Kirby & The Amazing Mirror.

Bandee says, "Kirby believes you can get this done, and that Popstar will cheer you!

I also believe in you. However, if it goes wrong, Kirby can help too!"

"Thanks, you two are amazing!" Emronia tells Kirby and Bandee.

I then tell Kirby, "I'm also sure you can help with the dilemmas too,
After all, you solved the food crisis in Dreamland, and made everyone happy."

Kirby nods and cheers me on. For sure, he is the good guy I believe he is.

We said our goodbyes afterwards and took our warp stars back to Popstar.

3 – Captivity

We reach Floralia during the evening, as the sun sets in on the horizon.
As we land back on Royal Road, we see Lolo and Lala running towards us.
"Lakesprits! You gotta see this, follow us!" Lolo says, and then we follow him.
We fly down a level while the orbs take the elevator down.
And then, we head into an alley, with a dead end, where the two spiders are.
Right at the end, Neblino sits trapped with his body wrapped with silk.
"There you are, lakesprits. This guy just fell into my web trap." Taranza tells us.
He then looks at Neblino, "Now, let's see what he's been hiding under that mask."
The cubic white mask is pulled, revealing his true image.
His round head bears a dark gray color, with a muted purple hue. Like blueberry jam.
As for his eyes, which have been two all along, they lean towards a rouge color.
The hair he has is longer than his body, shaped like clouds, and puce-colored.
Two small pink horns come from his hair, and two lop ears are on his sides.
"Wait, what kind of being are you?" I ask Neblino, "What's your species?"
Sectonia says, "He's the guy who's getting investigated for conspiring against us."
"I... I'm actually a Daedream.⁵⁴" Neblino admits, "That's who I am."
Taranza tells us, "He was getting paid by King Mayon to spread lies about Kirby."
"And he also moonlighted for Dark Mind, doing jobs for him." Sectonia tells.
Neblino then says, "When I arrived on Popstar, I looked for freelance work.
It just happened that at that time, both King Mayon and Dark Mind were hiring.
King Mayon offered good amounts of money for me to start-up my lodge.
And Dark Mind promised that he would grant our wishes if he conquered Popstar."
Sectonia then says, "Well, if you knew better, this could have been easily avoided.
Because there are a lot of other job opportunities across Popstar."
Taranza chuckles, "Yeah, I think it's funny he went for the comically evil guys."
"I propose an ultimatum," Neblino says, "I want to have a duel with any of you.
If whoever fights me defeats me, I'll do community service or anything you wish.
But, if I win, then... I'll still work for King Mayon and Dark Mind."
"But, we just beat King Mayon up!⁵⁵" Lala chuckles, "I don't think he'll recover."
"And we're about to get Dark Mind next, so you better think about it!" Sectonia says.
Neblino then says, "Then, if I win, I want to be the new King of Floralia!"
Sectonia laughs, "You won't last a week without my army knocking on your door.
I am the head of state, but you, appear to be a head of cabbage.⁵⁶"
Neblino says, "Well, in addition to being pardoned... I want to go on a cruise."

⁵⁴ Daedream is one of the pals (species) that appears in Palworld.

⁵⁵ See endnote 11: "Admit it"

⁵⁶ In a previous draft, someone told me that this scene reminded them of Persona 4 (but in a bad way) In that game, one of the characters, Adachi, buys cabbage at the Junes store, and the fandom decided to associate him with cabbages.

"I can accept that," Sectonia says, "I heard that a cruise will tour the Onion Ocean."
 "Ooh, Onion Ocean? I know there's a sunken city⁵⁷ at the bottom." Lala comments.
 Sectonia chuckles, "City at the bottom of the ocean? Ridiculous!"
 "Well, then," Neblino says, and then asks, "Who is up for the challenge?"
 We look at each other and discuss about who should step up for it.
 "I could probably take him on, I know this guy's moves." I suggest.
 Sectonia tells me, "Are you sure? I think I'm the best at combat here."
 "Yes, I'm sure about this. I know about his game." I tell her.
 Lolo then warns me, "But, Povynn! The stakes will depend on you!"
 I nod at him, and say, "I know, but, I want you all to rest for now."
 The rest of the group takes steps back, and Neblino says, "Then, it is on, Povynn."
 From his military jacket, he pulls a scythe glimmering with the evening's lights.
 I hold my weapon with both hands, and point it at him as I leap towards him.
 A flash happens as the both of us parry blades, and the both of us are sent backwards.
 He then jumps and flies away from the alley, and I chase him through the city.
 Dust and pollen fly away from the floor as we blast through the streets.
 Then, mid-air, he turns and throws purple poison at me, I cough it out.
 He flies below, to the lower parts of this island, and I follow him from above.
 Then, I grab my spear and fly in a spiral towards him and strike him like drill.
 The lower area, or levels, usually house maintenance buildings, sustainable of course.
 I break into one of them and spot some pipes with a valve and a faucet.
 Perfect, I think this can take away this poison. I let the water run, and wash myself.
 He then appears behind me and almost slices me with his scythe, so I slide below.
 A pipe explodes with the slash of Neblino's weapon, flooding the room.
 He then jumps and breaths out an icy breeze, freezing over the water.
 I look below, and my feet are trapped under the hard ice that formed over.
 Neblino jumps and tries to swing his scythe again, but I parry it with my spear.
 Then, after pushing him, I look at my spear and use it to chip away the ice.
 As if I were playing golf, I strike the ice and shoot shards back at him.
 Then, after that, with my perceptual tricks, I load a lot of noise into his ears.
 He covers his ears, closes his eyes, and screams, "That.... that does it!"
 When I'm about to hit him with the point of my weapon... I start feeling... drowsy...
 Almost as I fall over, I launch the spear at him, just like a javelin.
 My face meets the sweet and chill surface of the layers of ice that had formed over.
 The water is fresh and clean, like it came straight from the mountains.
 I open my eyes, and lift myself away from the water as if I came out of a pool.
 Neblino sleeps at the corner, his eyes remain closed, and his wounds being washed.
 "I still see good in you." I whisper as I grab him with my arms and carry him away.

⁵⁷ There is a sunken city on Stage 4 and the Boss Stage of Onion Ocean, a level in Kirby's Return to Dreamland. There's also another sunken city on Stage 5 of Overload Ocean, which is from Kirby: Planet Robobot.

He is most likely misguided, and never had someone to correct him, until now.

4 – Veredict

I place Neblino on a bed, as the rest of the council gathers around me.
"Do you think he'll be okay?" I ask, "I didn't want to... you know, be too harsh."
Quentin pats my shoulder, "I'm certain that he will, according to what I see."
"And if he doesn't..." Sectonia says, "Then, we'll say it was just part of the war."
"That doesn't solve it. I hope that he gets to be a good citizen afterwards." I say.
I tell the group, "The redemption of someone is better than the end of their life."
The daedream slowly shakes himself, and opens his eyes slowly.
"Povynn... you bested me." He says, "Before my punishment, please hear this."
We all turn towards him and pay attention to what he is about to say.
Neblino says, "The last mirror pieces that you saved yourselves are fakes...
While working for Dark Mind, I swapped some real shards with replicas.
Then, I handed those with other of the individuals who swore loyalty to him.
The remaining legitimate shards are located at my lodge's basement.
However, they're locked with a combination of numbers."
And so, he whispers onto us the pass code that he mentioned.
We leave the hospital, and fly down below to the Old Odyssey island.
There, we arrive at an almost abandoned Roundkick Lodge.
The spiders wait outside, while us lakesprits walk inside, as clients.
Some Noddies, sleepy Kirby-like beings, rest at the couches.
While the same bartender I saw before keeps himself busy playing a game.
"Neblino is busy, he told me I had to get something for him." I tell him.
Downstairs, at the basement, there's a safe with a key code lock inside.
On the other parts of the basement there's fridges with cakes and food.
But, that is not of interest for now. We put on goggles for what we're about to do.
I press zero, then four, then five, and then one⁵⁸. The strongbox opens for me.
And there they are, the genuine remaining shards, contained in bedsheets.
We carefully take them, and close the safe, making sure it looks intact.
When we leave the lodge, the spiders are wearing their goggles as well.
"Here they are," I hand over the pieces, "Will tomorrow be the day?"
Taranza nods, "Yes, tomorrow in the morning we'll do this."

⁵⁸ The 0451 combination. This number appears in several games, like Deus ex and Bioshock.

Book VII – Revelation of one Celsius degree⁵⁹

1 - The Great Sky Symphony

Very early in the morning, I wake up. Not even my alarm got time to wake me.
Not even the sun has risen. Only the early glimmers come into the sky.
I wake up my other two lakesprit friends, as I offer them a quick breakfast.
We walk into the streets, and we're joined by Lolo and Lala.
"What will be the plan?" Quentin asks the two rulers of Eden Land.
"Queen Sectonia decided the battle will take place here, in Royal Road." Lolo says,
Lala says, "This place has the biggest arsenal in Floralia, it has cannons everywhere."
"Thing is, you haven't seen them before because they hide behind the walls." Lolo says.
Lala then says, "The citizens also have a protocol to defend themselves."
We walk up to the top of Royal Road, and see the spiders on the edge.
From there, Queen Sectonia drops a seed half the size of her body.
The seed then softly descends into the surface as Taranza sprinkles some water.
The spiders then turn towards us, "Glad you're here. Please wait here." Sectonia says.
We then see the spiders fly towards the palace, as the seed lands at its destination.
After a pair of minutes, an alarm goes off the speakers spread across the city.
Some serious marching music plays, at moderato speed, in the background.
The bass drum plays one full note then half note triplets, and repeats.
Chords of strings, with some brass joining in, plays as the piece develops.
The Queen then lets her voice be heard in the announcement.
"Attention, my fellow Floralians. The time has come to defend Floralia!
The mirror will be assembled at the square in front of the palace in an hour.
Please bring everything you got to defeat Dark Mind and his henchmen.
I know it might be hard, but, we're aiming for the best outcome we can get."
Some minutes after, as the sprinklers finish watering, the spiders come back to us.
We all put on our goggles, and the spiders bring a wide box, containing the mirror.
With the box closed, we head towards the place where the battle will take place.
The Floralians start gathering. People of the sky and other spiders come in early.
Some share breakfasts with others, bringing food and drinks.
Waddle dees, either natives, or tourists from the surface, come in too.
Amongst the waddle dees, the King of Dreamland walks in, along with Meta Knight.
"Thanks for coming, King Dedede, and Meta Knight, the real one." Sectonia says.
Sectonia and Dedede shake hands, "Of course, this is for all of us." Dedede responds.

⁵⁹ The title is related to discussion of Climate Change. Climate Change has been sometimes described as an "Apocalypse", that word translates to "Revelation". The word "Revelation" is used instead of Apocalypse in order to match the first letters of each book with the word "Symmetry". As for the one Celsius degree reference, that has to do with world temperatures rising one degree since preindustrial times, and ecological experts trying to prevent the temperatures from rising even more.

A multitude of Floralian and tourists gather, and they're as packed as a concert.
"The dreamstalk⁶⁰ should be rising towards us right now." Sectonia mentions.
Emronia tilts her head, and asks the Queen, "The dreamstalk?"
The Queen points at the gigantic vines that grew all the way towards Floralia.
Residents of Popstar climb their way up as they reach the square and stand along us.
Other orbs, of the same species as Lolo and Lala, walk with armor and weapons.
"Good morning, His Majesty." An armored orb tells Lolo, "We are ready to attack."
The time comes, and Sectonia opens the box for her to place the mirror.
The final piece is placed, as the glass is completed, and seamlessly unites.
The Floralian, Dreamlanders, Edenlanders, and others, aim towards the mirror.
"Okay, if he emerges, attack, if he doesn't, we enter his portal." Sectonia commands.
After that, we all stood together, all lined up, prepared for anything.
We watch each other's backs, as the sky dawns into a red tone.
The mirror levitates towards the sky, as its glass lights up.
Clouds form a circle through the skyline, and a glimpse at the top.
The Queen of Floralia points at the arrival of the fear we'll confront.
First, as a silhouette, with horns behind his glowing eyes, and a grim cape.
Pauldrons with shining, polished metal spikes on top of them.
And floating fists placed as if he were to cross his nonexistent arms.
"That's him, attack!" The Queen commands, and the projectiles are fired.
Dark Mind covers himself with his cape as he covers himself from the blasts.
Let it be arrows, bullets, bombs, scarves, or anything else. It was all thrown at him.
He laughs at us, as he remains undefeated, teleporting to avoid our attacks.
At the very top of the sky, he opens his cape to summon several mirrors.
There's even the sight of a single-eyed orb under his cloak.
Several beings emerge from the mirrors and fly towards us.
And they happen to be the dark and wicked clones that we were told about.

⁶⁰ The giant plant that Kirby walks across in Kirby: Triple Deluxe.

2 - That's your competition⁶¹

Dark Mind disappears in front of us, leaving his minions up to the fight.
"Now! Each one, attack Dark Mind's henchmen!" Sectonia commands.
The Queen then flies off to the sky, screaming and unleashing her swords.
While the army of the mirrors falls into the Kingdom.
As she reaches the mirrors that fly way above Floralia,
She is confronted by none other than Dark Meta Knight.
The two parry swords on top, and then, she covers him with her web.
She gets on top, and with a slam of her fists, sends him packing downwards.
Emronia grabs my arm, as me and Quentin run to the outer part of the city.
Walls explode, and posts fall as we fly from one side to the other in search for more.
Figures jump from one roof to the other and between the alleys.
My spear stabs the ground as I stop another of our enemies... actually, two.
A dark version of Lolo, who wore leather gloves and pointy boots.
And a dark Lala, with a pointy bow, and sharing a grin with her own Lolo.
We hear a familiar voice, that says, "I know about an urban myth out there.
It says that if you break a mirror, It'll give you seven years of bad luck!"⁶²
The spear is taken off the ground as I spin it ahead of the two, and we surround them.
Then, from where we came, Lolo and Lala rush in while carrying regular mirrors.
"Haaah! Take this! Seven years of bad luck!" He says as he slams it on his clone.
Lala then strikes her clone in the head with a hand mirror, knocking her out.
The two then cover their clones inside eggs, and push them away, to the surface.
We bounce out of there, running through the streets, to face whoever is next.
At the square, we find King Dedede dueling against his own doppelganger.
A grim, dark copy⁶³ of him, gothic hues, and completely blank eyes.
Instead of having the peace sign emblems of the original, he had some sort of bullseyes.
The two face each other like sumo fighters, staring at each other.
They surprise each other by crouching and jumping up into the air.
And then, the two of them spin around, with their hammer and all.
Even whirlwinds form between them, which even draws us into the arena.
Then, the real King stops and smacks his clone with his hammer, to the ground.
And, from the ground, Lolo strikes the faker with a swing of his own hammer.
Shadow Dedede then does a back flip and lands perfectly over a tower.
His hammer opens, as rockets fire from its inside, heading towards all of us.
So, the original King spins his hammer and swings it at each missile.
Lolo and Lala then cover the other missiles into eggs, and shoot it back.

⁶¹ This title is inspired by the quote "Look in the mirror. That's your competition."

⁶² This superstition was supposedly spawned by ancient Romans, who believed the gods would look at people from inside the mirrors, and that the body renewed itself every seven years.

⁶³ Shadow Dedede, who appears in the Dededetour! Mode that's included in Kirby: Triple Deluxe.

But then, Shadow Dedede strikes them back, as if we were playing tennis.
As we shoot against each other, he then opens his mouth and sucks storms of air.
Just then, at the last second, Meta Knight flies by and swings the Galaxia⁶⁴ at him.
The Knight then swings again, this time at the clone's hammer, shattering it away.
Meta Knight waves at us and flies back to wherever he came from. Now it's up to us.
Shadow Dedede extends his glove to the sky and summons an axe twice his height.
Surprise! He nearly knocks me as he chases me and swings it at my head.
I fly and take my friends away, as he chases the others. He's getting hard to avoid.
Then, from his back, the real Dedede hits him, right in the head.
The King of Dreamland lifts him like sand on a shovel and sends him flying.
And then, he launches the axe up in the sky at his mirror clone.
Both the fake monarch and his axe shatter into glass dust, as the King turns away.
"Bad asses don't look at explosions." He chuckles, as we seek our next opponent.

⁶⁴ Meta Knight's sword.

3 - She snaps at him

Now let's turn our attention to what's going over on the other side.
With the rest of the copies shattered, there was still one surviving.
We all gathered, to see Dark Meta Knight fight against his original.
And not only the masked blue knight was fighting, but, Sectonia and Taranza too.
All against one very edgy clone, going from one side to the other in seconds.
"Okay! Explain to us for once... Why do you seek to attack us?" Sectonia asks.
She's pointing her swords at the cloned knight, who's not even breaking a sweat.
"The influence of our master needs to extend far beyond, to other Kingdoms" He says.
The cloned knight says, "Turns out, the miracle fruit can give such a great power."
The four keep fighting, three on one, in a fight of silk strings and blades.
Dark Meta Knight says, "To think we almost made you fall for our other plan."
"What was it?! Was it the mirrors that could corrupt us⁶⁵?" Sectonia asks.
The four then land on top of the palace, as the wind blows over their capes.
The clone says, "Exactly. You just figured out that we needed your immense power."
He calmly holds his head and rubs his chin, through his mask, as he chuckles.
He says "It is amusing. If you fell for it, people would have blamed you for being evil."
Sectonia then lets a breath out, and responds, "Well, you wicked clones..."
"You wicked clones are not original at all, you have to depend on us to exist!"
She chuckles, "I think it wouldn't be very wise to destroy whoever gave you form.
And I think you must have a lot of free time if you wanna annoy us!"
She points with her glove, and asks "Is it fun for you to see some poor spiders suffer?"
"This is what you're doing! You're this messed up! You sicko!" She tells him.
"You better change your ways⁶⁶, or else you'll feel the bite of the Queen!" She taunts him.
The two then keep clashing swords, at magnificent speeds.
Dark Meta Knight then jumps away and unleashes a tornado.
Then, Sectonia grabs Taranza, and jumps through the wind, cutting it with her swords.
She charges towards the cloned Knight and fences with him again.
Then, from the side, the real Knight stabs at his clone, failing each time.
From below, King Dedede breaks the roof with his hammer, and slams the enemy.
The edgy clone runs through the city, and flies away, avoiding all danger.
At that time, he flies just past us, and I use my spear to trip him down.
He then fences against me, and is getting way faster than me.
I scream for help, as the other come, and surround him.
He flies and dodges each projectile and swing that is launched at him.
The clone then hides himself into a body-sized mirror, and appears behind us.
"Hah! Gotcha!" Taranza grabs him out and spins a web on him, "Now let's finish him!"
And so, we nod at each other, and run one next to the other, taking turns.

⁶⁵ This is what happens in Sectonia's backstory in Kirby: Triple Deluxe.

⁶⁶ Michael Jackson – Man in the Mirror.

With citizens of Dreamland and Edenland going off, and finishing with the Florilians.

Then, out of nowhere, we see chef Kawasaki running with a giant wooden spoon.

Spoiled spaghetti coils at the end of the spoon, as he aims it at Dark Meta Knight.

"Take this, spoiled pasta⁶⁷!" Kawasaki yells as he pushes the food inside the clone.

The chef walks away, and Dark Meta Knight gets really dizzy.

He really can't help himself, he just lets himself be hit and slashed.

And at last, the Queen of Floralia, shows her scepters and finishes him with a thunder.

A loud thunder, flashing in front of us, cracking the impostor away, and leaving nothing.

After some seconds, a portal emerges in front of all of us, where the copy perished.

Like a sink plug being taken off, the winds flow and bring us to this gate.

This is it, this is the portal that the spiders seeked to find.

We're going to find Dark Mind and finish him off.

⁶⁷ That's a reference to Sr Pelo's "EVERY F* TOP 10" video, where the top 100 creepy pastas are rated, and the hundredth best creepy pasta ends up being spoiled pasta.

Book VIII – Yearning for peace

1 – Emergency

From the portal we come, one by one.
Over a sky that spins like whirlwind, of blue that gets deeper on the distance.
Barren lands of dry stone below us, with nothing else beyond the horizon.
He descends out of the sky, his horns poking out of his mask and armor.
As her cape is blown by the wind, she points her swords at him.
And so, it begins. We're all fighting against the ringmaster of this show.
He teleports several times, and shoots red stars at each one of us.
"Okay! Circle the enemy!" The Queen demands, as we keep dodging.
Gordos are brought by Lolo and Lala for Dedede to launch away with his hammer.
Two mirrors spin around Dark Mind, as he uses them to deflect the attacks away.
Meta Knight then catches Dark Mind mid-flight, and spins his sword like a drill.
I lift off and fly in circles along with him, as we chase our enemy.
Then, as he emerges again, I take my turn to drill away with my spear.
From behind, I see the Knight lend a second sword to the King of Edenland.
And then he jumps and leaps towards Dark Mind to swing both wind and his sword.
Sounds of glass shattering draw our attention as we turn and see our enemy shatter.
No word is uttered as we stand there hearing the sound of the wind.
Then, by a flash of light, we're taken to some halls of different rocks.
Similar places, like castles or caves, merged together, as we run to the other side.
The Queen closes her eyes and holds Taranza's hands, as we phase through the mirror.
Once again we find ourselves over the spinning sky of a hundred storms.
And we see him emerge once again, he reveals himself again, unshattered.
He brings his old tricks of shooting stars at us, and so, we do our act again.
Like musketeers, Meta Knight and the rest of us hold our swords and head to battle.
And so, we jump at Dark Mind and drill away with our weapons once again.
His mask, shattered, his cloak, ripped away. Rays of light emerge out of him.
Explosions of stars and energy blow out of every part of him, in front of us.
And, then, a final one flashes away the arena, so bright, it would take a while to end.

2 – Urgency

When we opened our eyes, we saw a completely red sky, and a single giant sphere.

The true form of Dark Mind, one giant amber-colored eye, burning like flames.

His twin mirrors come back, as he opens his lone eye, and draws another breath.

The mirrors fly away, as they chase each one of us, almost closing into one of us.

Dedede jumps and spins away, letting his hammer take him wherever it could.

Sectonia hovers on one side, attacking away with each of her swords.

Just for Taranza to throw a scarfy from the other side, with his web.

And from that explosion, Meta Knight dives from the sky to plant his sword.

As I fly from the mirrors, I see Lala pull out her phone and make a call.

From beyond the horizons, warp stars fly towards us, and take us away.

All of us, fly away from the wicked eye, and then turn at the last minute.

The coily rattler, the ancient mechanical snake, emerges from the sky.

It strikes and bites Dark Mind several times, then coils and slams it to the ground.

The Queen of Floralia then makes a sign with one of her gloves to return.

3 – S-Y-M-M-E-T-R-Y

From the shell of the former eye, a blind eye⁶⁸ wakes up from the ground.
His shell peeled out, revealing a black surface with orange lines connecting it all.
Sectonia nods at Taranza, and the two clap hands together.
As the mirrors chase them, the two cast silk over each part of the battlefield.
Red stars and flaming lasers bounce off mirrors, as the spiders avoid it.
She is struck by one of them, throwing two of her swords.
Taranza grabs her and then points at the sky.
With the flap of his wings, Meta Knight hands both of his swords to the Queen.
And then, he covers himself as he flies away from the scene.
One round of silk, then another one, as it glimmers and bounces away the stars.
Just as a star reaches her, she brings a sword and sends it back to its source.
Then, with her scepters, she brings a static spark to the web.
She even has surrounded the blades of her weapons with it.
From the lone eye, an arsenal of stars fly towards her.
Then, with her swords and silk, sends them flying. One mirror is broken.
From the lone eye, a second set of stars fly towards her.
So she spins her swords again and shatters the other mirror he had.
With both glasses broken, the eye forms a barrier around it.
Stars fly from the sky for her to shatter the armor of the eye.
His final resort, he blinks and his eye changes into a mouth.
Stars fly back into him, as almost everything is sucked into him.
The ground shatters, the webs start to fall, but, the spiders persist.
She stares at the eye. He stares at her, the two exhausted and about to perish.
And then, with the beam firing, she brings each sword to the front.
Like a shield, the swords deflect every ray of the beam away from her.
Each ray then bounces back into the silk, and then back into its owner.
Blasts coming from each face of the ancient eye, the one who tainted the mirrors.
Lights flash from him one last time, as no shattering could save him ever again.
Sparks and stars blow from his core, as his final self meets his demise.
And with that, Dark Mind exploded away, never to be seen again.
His legacy, gone forever. The Mirror World, purged away of his wickedness.
The ground breaks away, the clouds fly away, and the whole battlefield turns to dust.
It all floats away from us, like the soft white feathers of a pillow.

⁶⁸ This form is original to this poem.

4 - End of an era

Each one of us fall from the sky, above Pop Star, and above Floralia.

A blue horizon above a star-shaped planet.

Diving with our arms open, and with the wind cooling us off.

Wait... not all of us can fly and hover like I do.

I turn around to see Lolo and Lala being carried by the spiders.

Well, all is good for now. I even see the warp stars coming to take us.

From here we're taking a cruise across the lower skies of Pop Star.

Traveling across several landmarks, castles, or mountains.

And then, we land at Floralia, to get greeted and be celebrated as heroes.

Queen Sectonia then turns to Taranza, and gives him a tight hug.

"Thank you for everything, I'm glad we turned out fine." She says.

Then, she turns to us and bows, "And thank you all for helping our Kingdom."

Taranza then says, "Well, not just us, but, the entire planet of Popstar."

I hear the sound of a warp star coming from above, and look at the sky.

Kirby and Bandee have returned from their vacation, more ready than ever.

We all gather to greet them and ask how it has been.

The pink puffball then pulls out a shortcake, and gets ready to eat it.

But, then, after a batamon swipes it away, a new cake appears on Kirby's hands!

Kirby once again whispers at the waddle dee before speaking.

Bandee says, "People of Popstar! Kirby and I have a lot to tell you about!

I'm very thankful for those who protected this planet while we were out.

Of course, Kirby can heal everyone who has been cursed by the mirrors."

5 - Farewell, Floralia

A week has passed ever since the defeat of Dark Mind and his henchmen.
Not only was Popstar saved, but, the Mirror World has been saved as well.

Now, the two worlds have returned to a state of peace and serenity.

The mirrors have returned to normal, and are no longer banned in Popstar.
As for the curse, I can happily say that everyone has been cured of it. Thanks, Kirby!

Over this week of tranquility we made our bonds with the spiders stronger.

We're also promising to each other that we can visit them again when we want to.

As for now, I'm hanging out with Emronia and Quentin at the front row.

Lolo is playing the guitar, while my friend Hai plays the drums.

I'm so happy to attend Lolopalooza here at Gentry Land, it's so cool!

I am also really happy for accomplishing what we did together.

Farewell, Floralia. I will keep you in my heart for as long as I can.

Notes and errata

01 - Figured it out

It was over a month after the re-emergence of Dark Mind.
Two spiders hover through a hall, adorned with a long carpet in the middle.
"Your Majesty, I have some more updates regarding the situation" Taranza said.
The Queen nodded in approval, as the two approached the press room.
He said, "In a town near Gentry Land⁶⁹, after acquiring one of the mirrors...
One person attacked the rest of his town and vandalized their houses.
Apparently, the attacker was jealous of his neighbors? It all feels weird to me.
After that, some of the townsfolk disappeared and haven't been seen since."
"Hmm, I see." The Queen responded, "I am glad we're taking note of it."
She then said, "Whoever is sending those mirrors, we'll put a stop to them."
A round of applause erupted from the audience as she appeared before them.
The Queen presented herself at the lectern, and spoke to the Floralianians.
"Good morning, my fellow Floralianians. I speak to you today to keep you calm.
You might have heard about the incidents regarding mirrors below our Kingdom.
Several people have been affected by those particular looking glasses.
They bear golden baroque frames with wings, stars and a crown on them.
Our guards have taken notice and will make sure that no glass like this enters Floralia.
And, as of right now... we ourselves at the palace will make sure to find the culprit.
So, I insist to all my citizens, to stay safe out there as we take care of our threat.
I believe we will make it. If we all try our best, we'll be proud of it."
Hundreds of claps came from the People of the Sky, spiders, and other creatures.

⁶⁹ Lolo was prince of Gentry Land until he married Lala and became the King of Eden Land. In the Game Boy game, Gentry Land is shown to be an amusement park. However, the canon on this poem will assume that there is both a Gentry Land country and an amusement park with the same name.

02 – Monarchy

One evening, at the Royal Palace of Floralia, when the clouds covered the sky.

Inside one of the meeting rooms, decorated with curtains and carpets.

A painting was seen on the ceiling, featuring a background of clouds on a blue sky.

On each of the clouds, historical figures from Floralia and Botoria would sit.

People of the sky and spiders hung out together with other species.

Below the ceiling, the room had a coffee table at the center, next to two couches.

At the corner, there was a grand piano, with its lid closed at the time.

On an opposite corner there were other couches, and walls of bookshelves.

Two spiders, one being the Queen and the other being her sister, sat there cozily.

"Have you ever thought... if Floraliens are fine with me being their Queen?" She asked.

Her sister laughed, "Of course they are. If they were bothered, they would talk about it."

"I know what you mean, sister. But, I'm referring to my expectations." The Queen said.

Sectonia then said, "I inherited this position. I could be compared to my ancestors.

While I know that I hold their power and experience, I wonder how I will hold up.

What if I disappoint my citizens? Would they prefer to have a democracy instead?"

Short pause. Her younger sister looked back at the ceiling and then at the windows.

She turned around and said, "If they do, then, it might not be that bad..."

If Floralia is ruled by many, then, they could consider what each one of them thinks."

The Queen then said, "Unfortunately, I fear that they might not be able to do so.

Our citizens could disagree with each other, and never reach a consensus.

What if they end up divided? Or don't make progress due to their indifference?"

Another pause of silence happened. The younger spider stared at the Queen.

She then told the Queen, "Floraliens are wise, they can make good decisions.

Whenever it be informing you of what they want, or deciding for themselves.

I believe that whichever way this Kingdom takes, there will still be hope."

03 – Tyranny

As the tensions grew, and the mirror crisis heated up in Pop Star.
The land once ruled by King Egger was figuring out their strategies.
A snakey⁷⁰ asked, "King Mayon? Aren't you concerned about that recent alliance?"
He said, "The alliance between Florialia and Eden Land? It doesn't bother me too much.
Lolo and Lala may have ended my uncle's reign some years ago, but, let me tell you...
Queen Sectonia's reign is doomed even if we don't move a finger at all.
Once the mirrors corrupt her, Floralians will suffer with her as their tyrant.
She'll put those who challenge her behind bars, and betray her henchmen.
And those who step foot on Florialia will be met with cannonballs before them.
The Queen could even get the desire of taking over all of Pop Star as a divine⁷¹ ruler.
So, surely, Lolo and Lala would have to turn their back on mother nature.⁷²
And if Floralians revolt, it'll be such a violent and gruesome takeover...
To the point that the rebels would be seen as lethal as the Queen herself!"
The snakey and the King laughed as they advanced through the hall.
"My liege, if Kirby comes, how do you think it would play out?" The snakey asked.
He then joked, "Oh, I don't think Kirby would like to see a tyrant like her!
I bet she'd have to sleep for eternity after meeting the puffball!"

⁷⁰ Snakey is one of the type of enemies in the Adventures of Lolo series.

⁷¹ In Kirby: Triple Deluxe, Queen Sectonia says "My beauty rivals the divine..."

⁷² Tears For Fears – Everybody Wants To Rule The World.

04 – Infiltration

I am an endnote.

I'm supposed to talk about that time the spiders and orbs fought Dark Meta Knight.
But since I haven't been replaced with something official I will be a stand-in for now.

05 - Lolo and Lala's Adventure

This is Lolo and Lala's endnote for the mansion journey.

06 - Sectonia and Taranza's Journey

This is Sectonia and Taranza's endnote for the mansion journey.

07 - Girls' day out

This is an endnote for the morning trip that Sectonia and Lala get during the events of Book IV

08 - Let's throw a party

"I'm glad you're up for this job, Kawasaki." Lolo said, as he walked across the kitchen.

Kawasaki, a cook, had a face like Kirby's, but also had a tall orange egg-shaped body.

He wore a chef toque, along with a white apron with a blue pocket in the middle.

There was a pot of the size of barrel, filled with spaghetti with Alfredo sauce.

"I do have one dish ready," Kawasaki said, "The others will have to wait a little bit."

Lolo nodded, "Hopefully we can finish our quest soon, so we can throw this party!"

"Are you sure this will be it? You have been doing for four months now!" Kawasaki said.

Lolo wagged his finger, "We got some new members, and they seem to be quite skilled."

09 - Distant Destination

In this endnote. The council (minus Povynn) fight Master Hand and Crazy Hand.

10 - How he got in there

In this endnote. Meta Knight carries King Dedede to the Old Odyssey island.

11 - Admit it

In this endnote. Lolo and Lala confront King Mayon.